Friday, May 8, 2026 No 127 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Adhikari links aide's murder to election win

Page 7

Nation

Watching China-Pak collusion, says military a year after Op Sindoor P.11

World

Bangladesh seeks China support for Teesta River project P.12

Nation

Sohrabuddin case: Acquittals upheld **P.11**

Business

Skyroot becomes first spacetech unicorn **P.13**

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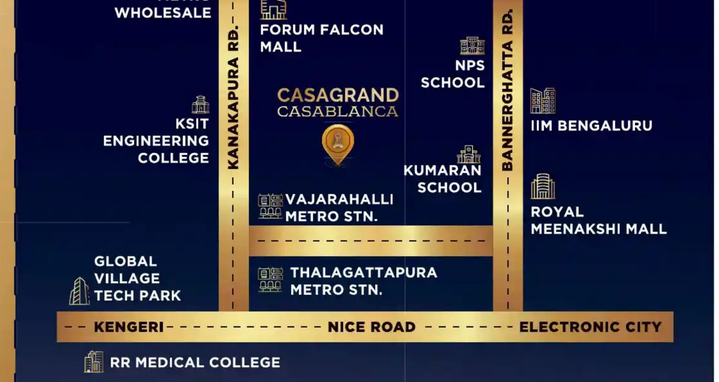

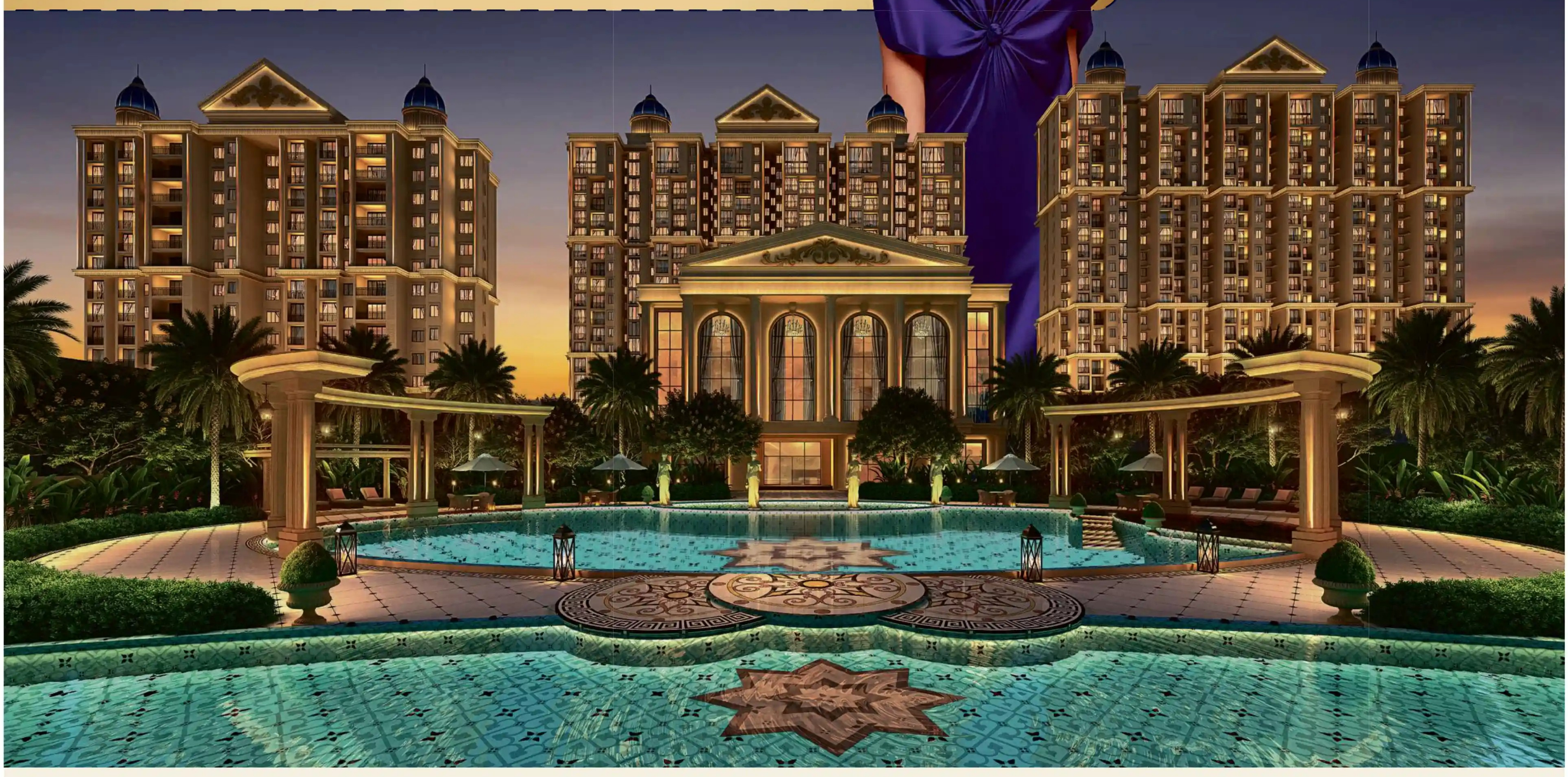

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Casagrand Premier Builder Limited is proposing, subject to receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial public offer of its equity shares and has filed a draft red herring prospectus ("**DRHP**") with the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("**SEBI**"). The DRHP is available on the website of our Company, at www.casagrand.co.in, the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in as well as on the websites of the book running lead managers Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors Limited and DAM Capital Advisors Limited at www.motilaloswalgroup.com and www.damcapital.in respectively, and the websites of the stock exchange(s) at www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com, respectively. Any potential investor should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, see "Risk Factors" of the RHP, when available. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP filed with SEBI for making any investment decision.

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Bengaluru Friday, May 8, 2026 Pages 20 Vol 79 No 127 ₹7

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The Power of Good

Marsh stars in LSG win against RCB

Page 15

A man walks past a poster of TVK chief Vijay in Chennai on Thursday. AFP

Vijay reaches out to Left, VCK to form govt

Parties likely to take decision today

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president C Joseph Vijay's march to Fort St George, the seat of power in Tamil Nadu, now hinges on support from three smaller parties, whose combined strength is six.

The parties — CPM, CPI, and VCK — will convene high-level committee meetings on Friday to take a decision on supporting the TVK, which reached out to them formally on Thursday.

The developments come after Governor Rajendra Arlekar informed Vijay during a meeting that he does not have the requisite number to form the government. The Governor is clear that Vijay will be invited to form the government only if the party has the required strength of 117 MLAs.

Thursday also witnessed intense speculation about the DMK supporting from outside an AIADMK government sans BJP headed by Edappadi K Palaniswami. TVK sources said their MLAs plan to resign en masse if such a formation takes places, as it is against the "people's mandate".

▸ Vijay, Page 6

DMK authorises Stalin to take 'urgent decisions', P7

Guv dissolves Bengal Assembly

Governor R N Ravi has dissolved the West Bengal Legislative Assembly with effect from May 7 after completion of its term, according to an official notification.

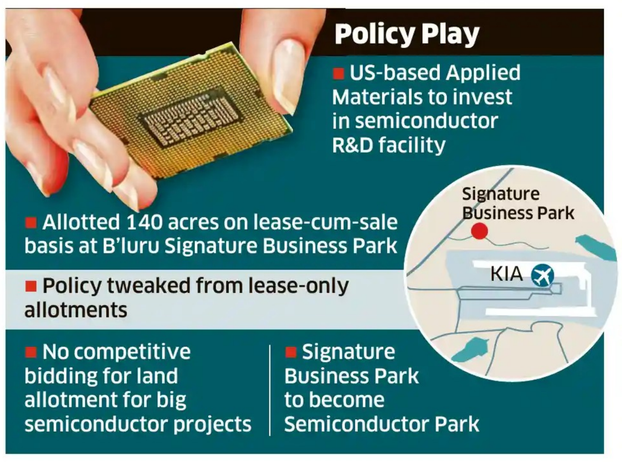
Details on Page 7

K'taka tweaks land policy for US firm

Chip giant to invest Rs 3,600 crore near Bengaluru airport

DH EXCLUSIVE

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS


Policy Play
US-based Applied Materials to invest in semiconductor R&D facility
Allotted 140 acres on lease-cum-sale basis at B'luru Signature Business Park
Policy tweaked from lease-only allotments
No competitive bidding for land allotment for big semiconductor projects
Signature Business Park to become Semiconductor Park
Signature Business Park
KIA

Karnataka changed its land allotment policy to secure a Rs 3,600-crore American semiconductor project, setting a precedent for similar concessions to future investments as the state looks to tap the expanding chip industry, documents show.

On April 30, the Cabinet approved the allotment of 140 acres at the Bengaluru Signature Business Park (BSBP), near the Kempegowda International Airport, to California-based Applied Materials, one of the world's largest semiconductor equipment companies, for an R&D and ecosystem development project.

The company is getting this parcel at Rs 1,288 per sq ft of floor space index (FSI) on a lease-cum-sale basis. This is a deviation from the government's policy of lease-only allotment at the BSBP.

The government views the Applied Materials project as "a strategic opportunity for Karnataka to anchor a high-value semiconductor R&D and innovation ecosystem", according to an internal document. This investment comes amid Karnataka's push to strengthen its semiconductor ambitions, with IT Minister Priyank Kharge accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office of "arm-twisting" companies to invest in Gujarat.

Land parcels within BSBP will be disposed of through lease-cum-sale basis considering "the need to enable long-term anchor investments" and based on "market feedback indicating preference for ownership-linked certainty for large technology investments", a note by the Karnataka State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation, which is in charge of the BSBP, states.

The government has made another policy change while accommodating Applied Materials: land for semiconductor manufacturing and related activities, and investments by globally reputed semiconductor technology companies will be allotted without competitive bidding at the BSBP.

While approving the land allotment, the finance department, which reports to CM Siddaramaiah, added some riders. "To prevent land speculation and ensure the promised Rs 3,600 crore investment is realised, the land shall be held on lease for a mandatory period (minimum 10 years)," it said.

▸ Semiconductor, Page 6

'IPL venue shift due to capacity, ticket demand'

IPL Chairman Arun Dhumal on Thursday said it became "untenable" to have the league's final in Bengaluru due to high demand for complimentary tickets from the state government at the relatively low-capacity venue. Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium, which can accommodate 1.30 lakh spectators, will host the final of the glitzy T20 event on May 31.

Details on Page 15

State to move SC on sticking to MGNREGA

The Cabinet meeting on Thursday decided to approach the Supreme Court requesting it to allow the state to continue the MGNREGA scheme and to frame an action plan for the current year. Due to the Centre's delay in issuing a notification on VB G RAM, it has decided to file a petition before the Supreme Court.

Details on Page 6

Iran reviewing US proposal amid Trump's pressure

DUBAI/WASHINGTON, AGENCIES

Iran said it was reviewing the latest American proposal to end the war after US President Donald Trump threatened the country with a new wave of bombing unless a deal is reached that includes reopening the crucial Strait of Hormuz to international shipping.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson told the official IRNA news agency on Thursday that Tehran has not yet reached a conclusion on the proposal and no response has been given to the US.

Earlier, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said Tehran would communicate its position to mediator Pakistan "after finalising its views".

Hope that the two-month conflict could soon be over buoyed international markets on Thursday, a day after the US military fired on an Iranian oil tanker attempting to breach the American blockade of Iran's ports.

Meanwhile, Pakistan said it expected a deal soon.

"We expect an agreement sooner rather than later," Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said on Thursday.

▸ Iran, Page 6

For 6th year, B'luru tops metros in civic negligence deaths

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru reported 17 deaths due to negligence of civic agencies in 2024, the sixth straight year that it topped metro cities in such incidents, the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report says. For comparison, Delhi reported four such deaths.

Electrocution due to poor power supply infrastructure, especially snapped live wires, and bad footpaths were major factors behind the fatalities in Bengaluru.

A senior official from Bescom claimed that rains and winds would snap the wires in many cases, resulting in deaths. "We conduct regular audits and keep the infrastructure well-maintained. However, sometimes, especially during rains, such unexpected incidents happen," he said.

▸ NCRB, Page 6

Major incidents in 2024

- **October:** 55-year-old woman lost her life after a live power line snapped, fell on her
- **September:** A 10-year-old boy died after a playground gate collapsed on him
- **June:** Two were electrocuted while trying to move a power line to make way for tractor

23% rise in farm-sector suicides in state

Suicides by farmers and agricultural labourers came down slightly in the country 2024 but Karnataka saw a 22.61% rise – from 2,423 to 2,971 – in such cases during the same period, as per the NCRB report.

Page 6

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Bengaluru rains flush snakes out of their burrows

City sees sharp spike in sightings, rescue calls

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Rescuers report more sightings of vipers, cobras, rat snakes, and water snakes.

The recent rains have flushed snakes out of their hidden burrows and into human spaces, leading to a sharp spike in sightings and emergency rescue calls.

From residential layouts to public spaces such as parks, rescuers say encounters have become more frequent and unpredictable, raising concerns about the safety of both the public and the reptiles.

Statewide snakebite cases rose from 182 in mid-March to 322 by the end of April.

Wildlife conservationists and snake rescuers said rescue calls had doubled over the past few days following the rains.

Prasanna Kumar, a wildlife conservationist, said, "We have been getting a lot of calls in the last few days. The mating season for snakes has ended, and eggs hatch at the end of May and in June, which will increase sightings of snakelets."

"The bigger problem is that the rain has also damaged about 45% of the eggs laid by snakes. Rainwater entering burrows and rat holes has infected the eggs with fungus, causing some of them not to hatch," he added.

Vallish V Koushik, another wildlife conservationist, shared his experience: "After the rains, I got more calls in two days than in a whole month. On Thursday, I received calls from four different areas in Bengaluru. I caught snakes in Yelahanka Judicial Layout and Hosakerehalli, and released them more than a kilometre away from residential layouts."

Rescuers reported finding more Russell's vipers, cobras, rat snakes and water snakes.

Rajesh, a snake rescuer in the city, said, "Any temperature imbalance brings snakes out of their burrows. Heat forces them to move to cooler places, and when rainwater enters burrows, they come out, increasing sightings. Healthy snakes lay anywhere between 20 and 50 eggs, and only about half survive."

Ramesh Kumar, another snake rescuer, said, "We have received calls from many localities in Bengaluru, with the highest number coming from Hebbal, Mathikere, Yelahanka, Byatarayanapura and surrounding areas."

Health department officials said anti-venom vaccines had been made available in government hospitals across the state.

Babusapalya underbridge set to open as access road nears completion

Garbage, stagnant water, seepage marks raise concerns

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Garbage, stagnant water and littered bottles raise concerns over the upkeep and quality of the underpass.
DH PHOTO/NAVEEN MENEZES

A railway underbridge at Babusapalya, stalled for years due to litigation and incomplete approach road works, is finally set to open within a week.

The Bengaluru East City Corporation has begun constructing the access road, which is expected to bring relief to thousands of commuters who currently face long traffic snarls at the busy Horamavu-Agara level crossing in east Bengaluru.

The underbridge, built beneath the Channasandra-Yelahanka railway line, remained shut despite the civil structure being largely completed nearly three years ago. The delay was caused by litigation over a small patch of land required for the approach road. With the dispute now resolved, road-laying work has commenced.

An engineer in charge of the project said the short stretch of access road will be developed using concrete. "Stone aggregates have already been levelled. The road will be ready within a week," she said.

However, when a *DH* correspondent visited the site on Wednesday, the underpass, though open to the public, was poorly maintained. Heaps of garbage, stagnant water and liquor bottles were seen inside. Water seepage marks were also visible on multiple sides of the concrete structure, raising concerns about construction quality and drainage.

The project, under execution since 2021, was envisaged as a solution to rising traffic on Babusapalya Main Road, which connects to Horamavu-Agara. The surrounding areas have witnessed rapid development in recent years.

"The underbridge will be a huge relief once opened, as the railway gate leads to massive traffic pile-ups during peak hours," said Thomas Varkey, a resident of Babusapalya. He added that authorities realised a portion of private land was under litigation only after completing most of the bridge work.

"Because of the dispute and lack of coordination between the corporation and the South Western Railway (SWR), the underbridge remained unusable for three years," he said.

Last month, East City Corporation Commissioner D S Ramesh inspected the site and assured that the underbridge would be opened soon.

Victoria Hospital harvests organs of brain stem-dead woman

BENGALURU, DHNS: Doctors at Victoria Hospital have harvested the heart, heart valves, lungs, liver, kidneys, corneas and skin of a brain stem-dead patient who had hanged herself on May 5, helping multiple patients awaiting transplants.

Shreelakshmi R, a 43-year-old homemaker, was found hanging at her home in Srinagar and was brought to the Trauma and Emergency Centre for treatment, but was unresponsive when she was admitted.

Despite emergency medical efforts, doctors later found no signs of recoverable brain stem activity. Doctors conducted tests twice to assess brain stem activity — at 1.50 pm and again at 8.06 pm — in keeping with the required medical protocol. Her husband, Sudarshan A, consented to donate her organs to help patients in need, the hospital said.

First 25m, I-girder span erected for suburban rail

BENGALURU, DHNS

The I-girder span connecting piers 19 and 20 was erected near Chikkabanavara on May 4. PHOTO: K-RIDE

The Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) reached a construction milestone with the launch of its first 25-metre-long, I-girder span connecting piers 19 and 20 on the Mallige Line near the Chikkabanavara viaduct section on May 4.

A girder is the main beam supporting a viaduct that carries elevated railway or metro tracks.

The I-girder is 22.9 metres long and 1800 mm high (top width 1060 mm, bottom 860 mm). It consists of 3.50MT of steel and 26 cubic meters of concrete, with pre-stressed concrete, Railway Infrastructure Development Company Karnataka (K-RIDE) said.

"This erection marks significant progress on viaduct for connectivity between Yeshwantpur and Soladevanahalli," it added.

On December 17, 2024, K-RIDE installed India's longest, single-span U-girder, also on the Mallige Line in Yeshwantpur.

The Mallige Line, also Corridor 2, will connect Baiyappanahalli to Chikkabanavara via Yeshwantpur and Hebbal, spanning 25.01 km. Its latest deadline is December 2028.

SEC meeting on civic polls to be held today

BENGALURU, DHNS: The State Election Commission (SEC) is likely to meet on Friday to finalise the date for elections to the five newly carved corporations of Bengaluru. The meeting, originally scheduled for Thursday, was deferred by a day following confusion over whether Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar could be present at meetings concerning election-related matters.

As per the revised letter, the SEC secretary has informed the District Electoral Officer, who is also the Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru Urban district, to be present at the meeting to be held in the conference hall of Vidhana Soudha.

The letter specifically mentions that the meeting has been called to fix the date for elections to the five city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). During the meeting, the commission may review the preparedness for holding the elections by the end of June, including the deployment of the required manpower, release of funds by the government, and logistical arrangements.

IPL betting racket busted, one arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS: Central Crime Branch (CCB) police have arrested a 30-year-old man for allegedly running an illegal online cricket betting racket linked to ongoing IPL matches in Devanahalli.

The accused, identified as Nikhil R, a resident of Shantinagar in Devanahalli, was earlier engaged in the poultry business and is currently unemployed.

Police said Nikhil was allegedly facilitating online betting by providing IDs and passwords to punters through a betting platform identified as 'PARKER777'.

A senior police officer said that, acting on a tip-off, a special team tracked down the accused and his associates, who were allegedly collecting money from the public and organising cricket betting activities. During verification of his mobile phone, investigators found evidence showing that he was using the application to provide customers with access credentials for placing bets on IPL matches.

Police said the accused had developed a network through friends and relatives over the past four-and-a-half years and had been involved in betting operations. He has been taken into custody for further interrogation.

Narayanaswamy alleges irregularities in GBA works

BENGALURU, DHNS: Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy on Thursday alleged irregularities in the civic works executed by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

Narayanaswamy told a press conference that Rs 1,301 crore had been spent in two years (2023-24 and 2024-25), but noted that the corresponding figure had been Rs 1,040 crore in 2025-26 alone.

"This shows how they are managing Bengaluru. How have they spent the amount? Did the number of roads increase," he sought to know.

The LoP also alleged irregularities in waste collection. "For waste collection, they have made packages and called for tenders. After contractors have quoted their rates, there have been dealings about the percentage. Are you collecting funds for the GBA polls from the contractors?," he charged.

Noting that the issue had appeared before the Cabinet on Thursday, Narayanswamy felt an approval by the Cabinet would mean that "sufficient funds have been collected" for the polls.

"If the GBA elections happen now, people of Bengaluru will humiliate Congress," he said.

Police launch probe into illegal podi survey of CA land

BENGALURU, DHNS: Police have launched a criminal investigation after an illegal podi survey was allegedly conducted to grant a civic amenities (CA) site to a private citizen in north Bengaluru.

A podi survey divides a land survey number into smaller sub-numbers to grant ownership.

The podi survey pertained to one acre and 19 guntas of land in Survey No. 13/1 at Kothi Hosahalli village in Yelahanka taluk.

T K L Prakash, a licensed surveyor, allegedly colluded with one Balaram, who had applied for an urgent tatkal podi survey, and ignored the existence of a GBA building and a playground on the site while conducting the survey.

The surveyor also allegedly failed to take into account that 33 guntas of the land had earlier been reserved as a park (CA site) when the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) approved the layout plan. Despite this, a survey sketch was prepared for the entire one acre and 19 guntas, including the GBA building and playground on the site.

The BDA had leased the area reserved as a CA site to the Sahakara Nagar Club for 30 years. Following a complaint seeking legal action over the alleged illegal podi survey that included this land, the Commissioner of the Department of Survey, Settlement and Land Records, along with departmental officials, conducted a site inspection on April 25.

Based on the findings, the commissioner directed officials to file a criminal case against Prakash for allegedly concealing the actual status of the land and conducting the survey illegally, as well as against Balaram, who had sought the tatkal podi survey.

Accordingly, a criminal case was registered at Kodigehalli police station on April 28 under Section 192(A) of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964, and Sections 318(2), 336(3), and 340(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, the Assistant Director of Land Records, Yelahanka taluk, said in a statement.

Tribute concert today

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira will present a tribute concert in memory of G V Krishnaprasad on Saturday at 5.30 pm at the SRLKM Concert Hall, 9th Main, Banashankari 2nd Stage.

The concert will feature Anagha Yoganand on vocal, Aditi Krishnaprakash on violin, G S Ramanujan on mridanga and Omakar Rao on ghata.

CORRIGENDUM-05 FOR TENDER NOTICE NO.: CON/2026/FEB/03 DATED. 28-02-2026

Corrigendum No. 05 for Tender Notice No. CON/2026/FEB/03, dated: 28-02-2026 against **Tender No. CE-CON-FT-EPC-2026-04** has been published. For details please visit in website **www.ireps.gov.in**.

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VARIOUS WORKS FOR LHB COACHES AT DBWS

E-Tender Notice No.: DBWS-NIET-06-2026-27; Dated: 05-05-2026. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Name of the work:** Standardization of piping and clamping diagram layout of piping for FIBA, Air Spring and Air Suspension control equipment and provision of additional Dirt Collector in BP line before FIBA device in all LHB coaches at DBWS. **Estimated Tender Value:** ₹61,87,695/- inclusive of GST @18%; **Bid Security:** ₹1,23,800/-; **E-tenders will be closed** at 15:00 hrs. on 27-05-2026 and **Opened** at 15:30 hrs. on 27-05-2026. The complete information about the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs of 27-05-2026 in website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**.

Chief Workshop Manager/
Mechanical Workshop/Dibrugarh
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ICAR - National institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology
Adugodi, Bengaluru-560 030
Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Government of India

WALK-In-INTERVIEW - NIANP/ADV- 05-CDN/2026

The walk - in - interview has been scheduled on **15-05-2026 (Friday) at 10:30 AM** for selection of Young Professional- II (Consolidated Rs. 42,000/- p.m.) under CLAR (Animal House) on a temporary basis for One year.

WALK-In-INTERVIEW - NIANP/ADV- 04-CDN/2026

The walk - in - interview has been scheduled on **18-05-2026 (Monday) at 10:30 AM** for selection of Young Professional- I (Consolidated Rs. 30,000/- p.m.) on a temporary basis for One year.

For detailed advertisement please visit the Institute website **www.nianp.res.in**

Sd/-
Admn. Officer

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Salem Division
Office of the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer
Electric Loco Shed, Erode
E-Tender Notice No. SA_A_RS_ED_OT_26_27_6,
Dated: 05.05.2026

Online tender is invited for the following work:

Tender No	SA_A_RS_ED_OT_26_27_6, Dated: 05.05.2026
Description of Work	**Works contract for Reconditioning of Smoothing Reactor (SL-30) of electric locomotives available at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode.**

All details regarding the tender are available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / Rolling Stock / Erode
For and on behalf of the President of India

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar 841221

E Tender No.:- RWP-PLG-OT-2026-1 "Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/PLG/ **Rail Wheel Plant, Bela** for and on behalf of **President of India** invites online "e-Open Tender" through Indian Railways E-Procurement Portal (IREPS) www.ireps.gov.in for following work. **1. Name of work with its location and completion period:** Design, Engineering, Supply, Installation, Erection, Commissioning, Testing of Cold Air Ventilation System for operators at different locations in Mould room at RWP/Bela and CAMC for this system for 05 years Post Warranty. **2. Approx. cost of the work:** Rs. 28915302.00/-, **3. Earnest Money to be Deposited :** Rs. 578300.00/-, **4. Cost of tender document :** Nil, **5. Pre-Bid Conference Date Time :** 13/05/2026 at 12:00 Hrs, **6. Tender closing date and time :** 05/06/2026, 15.00 hrs. **7. Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. :** E Tender No. **RWP-PLG-OT-2026-1,** For full details and submission of bid kindly visit Portal (IREPS) www.ireps.gov.in. The prospective firms/ bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with IREPS Portal (www.ireps.gov.in) for updates including **Addendum/Corrigendum/ Cancellation** with respect to the above tender because no such any notice/ information concerned that shall be published in newspaper.

Dy. CME/PLG, Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
RWP/CPRO/Advt/2026-27/14

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tender Notice No.: E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-38-40-26, Dated: 06.05.2026. For and on behalf of the President of India, DRM(Engg)/Adra, South Eastern Railway invites **03 (Three)** nos. e-tender for **Level Crossing, Misc. Works** and **Bridge work** as mentioned hereunder: **Sl.No.**-1. **Tender No: E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-38-26. Description of works:** Improvement of important and busy Level crossing by providing rubberized surface under DEN/North/Adra. **Tender value:** ₹ 4,36,10,222.54. **Sl.No.**-2. **Tender No: E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-39-26. Description of works:** Construction of damage boundary wall and improvement of existing building at Bhojudih inter college. **Tender value:** ₹ 43,15,155.35. **Sl.No.**-3. **Tender No: E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-40-26. Description of works:** Improvement and renovation of bridge by grouting, construction of ballast retaining wall, wing wall, flooring, stair etc. under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Bokaro Steel City. **Tender value:** ₹ 4,36,10,222.54. The closing date and time of e-tenders are on **10.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs.** (for Sl.No. 1 to 3 each). Details of above e-tender may please be seen at website **www.ireps.gov.in.** **(PR-134)**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum to Tender Notice No.
CAO/CN/BNC/172/2026 Dated : 27-02-2026

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
RFP for Construction of New Broad Gauge Line between Chainage 90000 and Chainage 130375 (40.375 km) including Civil & Track works, Signal & Telecommunication works, Railway Electrification and Electrical General Services between Hiriyur (HIRYR) (Incl.) & Palavvanahalli (PLVHL) (Incl.) stations and Extension of various bridges (Civil works) between Palavvanahalli (PLVHL) (Excl.) & Chitradurga (CTA) (Excl) stations (Chainage 130375 to Chainage 140490 (10.115 km)) in Tumakuru-Chitradurga Davangere New Line Project on EPC Mode. **(Tender Ref. No. TK-DVG-EPC-05)**	Rs. 7,82,76,56,049/-

Date of Closing	
Existing	**Modified**
13-05-2026 (15:00 Hrs.)	**26-05-2026 (15:00 Hrs)**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer / Construction / Works
Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/99/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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SPECIAL BRANCH
POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL
NO. SB/Store/2026-25 (320), Bhopal, Dated 29-04-2026

"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE "

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P., Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app:-

S. No.	Name of Item(s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.) Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in	EMD (Rs.)	Tender No.
1	Encrypted Data Analysis & Processing Portable Device (IOS Based Laptop)	17	3,000/-	1.27,500/-	1st Tender

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & **must submit online through website** https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.
2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)
3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: https ://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
4. **Tender Schedule :**

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
i	E-Tender Publish Date	30/04/2026 at 1400 hrs.
ii	Tender document download Start Date	30/04/2026 up to 1430 hrs.
iii	Submission of written queries - through e-mail: **aigg-sb@mppolice.gov.in**	**05/05/2026 up to 1700 hrs.**
iv	Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries	06/05/2026 at 1200 hrs.
v	Bid Submission Start Date	11/05/2026 at 1000 hrs.
vi	Last date of online e-Tender submission	20/05/2026 up to 1600 hrs.
vii	Bid will be opened on	21/05/2026 up to 1600 hrs.
viii	Demonstration from	Demo date will be announced Separately

5. Intending Bidders are advised to visit this website regularly till closing date of submission to keep themselves updated as any change/ modification in the tender will be intimated through this website only by corrigendum /addendum/ amendment.
6. Bids will be opened as per date/time as mentioned in the Tender Critical Date Sheet. After online opening of Technical-Bid the results of their qualification as well Price-Bid opening will be intimated later.

Sd/-
D. I. G. of Police
Intelligence (G) M.P. Bhopal
Tel No. 0755- 2443654

G-12520/26

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, लातेहार

अल्पकालीन ई– निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई–निविदा संख्या :– 04/R1/2024-25/EE/RWD/LATEHAR दिनांक : 07.05.2026

क्र0	आईडेंटी फिकेशन सं0/पैकेज सं0	प्रखंड	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अंक में	अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि	टेंडर कॉल
1	RWD/LAT EHAR18/20 24-25	हेरहंज	घुटाम से पी0डब्लू0डी0 रोड पालही तक पथ निर्माण।	523.868	रू0 पाँच करोड़ तेईस लाख छियासी हजार आठ सौ रूपये मात्र।	18 माह	द्वितीय
2	RWD/LAT EHAR19/20 24-25	हेरहंज	हाटा टोंगरी से सहेदा स्कूल भाया बरवाटोली तक पथ निर्माण।	530.646	रू0 पाँच करोड़ तीस लाख चौंसठ हजार छः सौ रूपये मात्र।	18 माह	द्वितीय

1. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि : 12.05.2026
2. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : 20.05.2026 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक।
3. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : 22.05.2026 अपराह्न 03:30 बजे।
4. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता, कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, लातेहार पिन – 829206।
5. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0 – 06565245038

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग कार्य प्रमण्डल, लातेहार

PR 379200 (Rural Development)26-27*D

B'luru still sees vape use despite ban, seizures

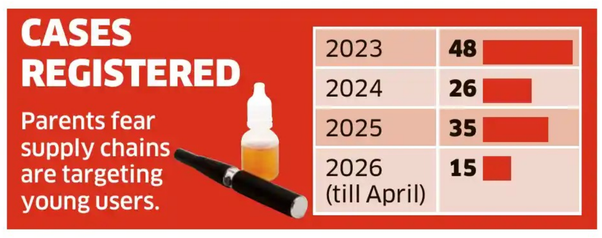
Concerns persist over black market supply

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Over the last three years, Bengaluru City Police have booked 109 cases involving the use of e-cigarettes in the city. In 2026, 15 cases were reported in just the first four months, indicating that the use of vapes or e-cigarettes remains common despite the ban.

A recent survey by LocalCircles, a community social media platform, echoed this trend. Of the 2,524 participants surveyed, nearly 13% said they had witnessed the use of vapes near their residence or workplace every day. Another 13% said they saw such instances every week, while 9% said they had witnessed them once a month.

While survey participants said they had seen vaping at various public places, Bengaluru City Police officials told *DH* that strict enforcement and vigilance act as a deterrent against the use of vapes in open spaces. "We have seized e-cigarettes many times over the last few years and have acted on complaints. However, it is not very rampant now," Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh told *DH*.



Survey participants said they had mostly come across such instances at private parties (44%), near corporate offices (46%), and in restaurants or clubs (37%). However, senior police officers said they had raided such places whenever complaints were received. Police officials said they mostly depend on complaints to act in such cases, and corruption at lower levels has meant that many clubs offering such services escape action. "Though they operate similarly to drug networks, they are not as easily accessible. Hence, we have to depend on intelligence and complaints to crack down on such cases," a senior police officer told *DH*.

However, nearly 31% of respondents said they had seen instances of vaping on streets, while 21% said it was common near colleges and schools. Parents too echoed concerns. "Recently, we heard that many such e-cigarettes were confiscated from children at a well-known school in the city. They were found during a surprise check of students' bags. This is concerning. The police should keep a close watch and ensure that such sales networks are cracked down on," said Sapna, name changed, parent of a 12-year-old.

Senior police officials with the Central Crime Branch told *DH* that those operating such networks usually target specific places and areas. "They operate close to schools and colleges or in posh areas. They know where the potential users are and are very careful to ensure that they supply only to those with known references," a senior police officer said.

Vapes or e-cigarettes are mostly sold in the black market by being projected as a safer alternative to cigarettes. However, experts said that most e-cigarettes contain propylene glycol and vegetable glycerin, which are toxic. "They also produce other harmful substances that can cause lung and heart disease, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)," a study by NIMHANS has warned.

Husband attacks wife with knife on busy road; public thrash him

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 27-year-old woman narrowly escaped death after her husband allegedly tried to attack her with a knife on a busy road at Dasanapura near Nelamangala on Wednesday afternoon.

A senior police officer said the accused, Sanjay, 35, a native of Bihar, intercepted his wife Sonali while she was walking out of her house. He arrived on a bike wearing a helmet and allegedly posed as an unidentified miscreant before holding a knife to Sonali's neck in an attempt to assault her.

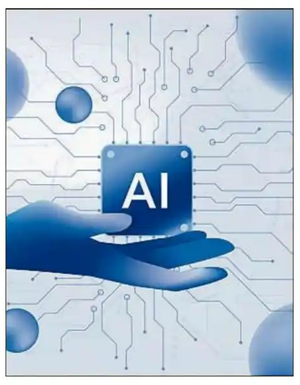
A youth who witnessed the incident immediately intervened, overpowered Sanjay and rescued the woman. Hearing Sonali's screams, local residents also rushed to the spot, assaulted the accused and later handed him over to the Madanayakanahalli police.

Police said the couple had been facing frequent domestic disputes and had been living separately for the past few months. Both were reportedly in their second marriage. Sanjay had allegedly developed an alcohol addiction, leading to regular quarrels, and Sonali's refusal to reunite is suspected to have triggered the attack.

A video of the incident went viral on social media on Thursday. However, police said no case had been registered as the woman refused to file a complaint against her husband.

AI-driven platform launched to boost jobs for differently abled

BENGALURU, DHNS



A new AI-driven platform aimed at improving employment opportunities for persons with disabilities (PwDs) was launched in Bengaluru on Thursday with the support of the state government.

Called 'Adidvara', the platform has been developed by AssisTech Foundation and was unveiled at Vikas Soudha by Minister for Skill Development and Medical Education Dr Sharanprakash R Patil.

The platform seeks to connect PwDs with employers through AI-based job matching, while also offering pre-employment training, digital literacy and workplace-readiness modules. The system is designed to align candidates' skills and accessibility requirements with suitable roles, said Prateek Madhav, CEO and co-founder of AssisTech Foundation.

"One of the first things the platform helps with is creating a professional CV. This one step makes a big difference and can help many people take that first step and reach out to employers," he added.

Using the platform, the organisation also plans to host a job fair specifically for PwDs in August 2026. Called 'Adidvara Grand Job Habba', it will be held at Kanteerava Stadium.

Speaking at the launch, Patil said the initiative could help create a more integrated ecosystem for the skilling and employment of PwDs.

Tree branch cut for procession; forest dept to probe

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a clear violation of green norms, a large tree branch was cut off at Jayanagar 6th Block on Wednesday to facilitate a local cultural procession. The Forest Department has taken note of the incident and warned of strict action against those responsible.

The pruning took place on 24th Cross in Yediyur ward to clear the path for a truck carrying a deity. While the procession passed through the lane, the unauthorised cutting of the canopy drew the attention of residents and authorities alike.

A tree branch was cut to clear the route for a cultural procession in Jayanagar 6th Block on Wednesday.

Sudarshan, Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF), Greater Bengaluru Authority, confirmed to *DH* that the Range Forest Officer (RFO) had already submitted an intimation in the matter. "We are currently looking into it. Under the rules, the Forest Department is the only authority authorised to cut or remove trees and branches. There is no provision for the public to cut or alter them," he said.

The DCF added that a spot inspection would be conducted to assess the damage. "If substantial damage is reported, necessary action will be taken against the violators," he said. Under the Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, any unauthorised pruning of trees in the city can attract penalties or legal proceedings.

Murder accused dies in custody

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 36-year-old man arrested on murder charges has died of illness in police custody, officials said.

Manjunath, a resident of Seshadripuram, was arrested on April 28 by Mahalakshmi Layout police in connection with a murder case. Police had obtained his custody for interrogation.

On May 1, Manjunath complained of stomach pain and was admitted to hospital. He was reportedly suffering from liver-related ailments and diabetes. Despite treatment, he died on May 3.

Police have registered a case of unnatural death and launched an investigation.

DH
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IN THE CITY

GENERAL

Karnataka Nataka Academy: Makkala Ranga Habba; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 10.30 am.

Department of Cooperation: Inauguration Sahakara Samruddhi Soudha by Siddaramaiah; Ali Askar Road; 4 pm.

Government Art College: Concluding ceremony of various activities; College premises, BR Ambedkar Veedi; 10 am.

CULTURAL

Bengaluru Gayana Samaja: Vadya Vaibha - music by Vamshidhar, Charulata Ramanujam, R Admaya, Shamit Gowda, Vishwanath, Yashasvi, Anur Dattatreya Sharma and Bhargava Halambi; KR Road, 5.15 pm.

CV Shivashankar Kala Pratishthana: Release of book to GG Nagaraj; Jayamala, Girija Lokesh and others; Gandhi Bhavan, Kuamrakrupa Road; 6 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Pravachana Balaga: Religious discourse on 'Uma Maheshwara Samvada' by Chandrashekhar Acharya; Bhimanakatte Raghavendra Swami Mutt, Doddabommasandra, Vidyaranyapura; 6.15 pm.

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthana and Hindudharma Prachara Parishat: 'Harinama sankeertane' - devotional songs by Pranita T Manur, S Shashidhar, Srinivas Anantaramaiah; Raghavendraswami Mutt, Sudhindranagar, Malleshwaram; 6.30 pm.

CITY WEATHER

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	32.6°C
Minimum	22.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	51%
Sunset (May 8)	6:36 pm
Sunrise (May 9)	5:57 am
Moonrise	11:24 pm
Moonset	10:07 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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Cong leaders say SIR a suspect, but state govt unlikely to oppose it

Party starts ground work to 'map' voters in each Assembly segment

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Congress leaders in Karnataka are increasingly linking the Trinamool Congress' defeat in West Bengal to large-scale voter deletions during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Yet, the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government has steered clear from formally opposing the contentious exercise in the state.

The Cabinet has reviewed the pre-SIR exercise and its implications in the last six to seven meetings. However, no decision has been taken either to oppose the proposed revision or to seek a complete overhaul of the process, as demanded by some citizens' groups.

A coalition of social activists and organisations has called for electoral rolls to be publicly displayed at gram panchayat and ward levels for corrections, and for the revision and appeal window to be extended from three months to six months, besides challenging it in Supreme Court.

Siddaramaiah said the defeat of the TMC could have been caused by anti-incumbency or even by deletion of voters' names during SIR.

"My government will not allow genuine voters in Karnataka to be targeted and any revision must be carried out impartially".

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge alleged that a "logical discrepancy" category was used in Bengal to remove 27 lakh names from electoral rolls.

"In 50 seats in Bengal, SIR deletions exceeded the victory margin and more than half of those were won by BJP. The SIR was just one part. The broader playbook is what needs attention," charged Kharge.

Labour Minister Santosh Lad dared the Centre to link Aadhaar with voter identity cards to eliminate duplication instead of conducting what he described as a suspect exercise.

The chief electoral officer has been apprising the Cabinet on pre-SIR voter mapping and the schedule.

Karnataka had 3.55 crore voters in the 2002 rolls and 5.57 crore in the 2025 rolls.

Once SIR is announced, recognised parties will be consulted, weekly updates on claims and objections will be published through ECINet and forms 6, 6A, 7 and 8, along with draft and final rolls, will be put online.

Even as the government acknowledges that SIR could be notified any time, the Congress has started ground work to independently "map" voters in every Assembly constituency by appointing block level agents and a huge volunteer base to assist voters once SIR is launched.

Vishwanath announces retirement from electoral politics

MYSURU, DHNS: MLC (Nominated) A H Vishwanath announced his retirement from electoral politics on Thursday.

He, however, said that he and his sons would be in politics in their own capacities.

Vishwanath said, "Earlier, people have funded my elections. But now, a leader requires Rs 50 crore to contest an election. I don't have such huge amounts of money to spend on elections. So, I am retiring from electoral politics."

Surveyor arrested for taking bribe

HAGARIBOMMANAHALLI (VIJAYANAGAR DIST), DHNS: The Lokayukta police have caught a surveyor of the Department of Survey, Settlement and Land Records on charges of accepting a bribe via digital payment app PhonePe for demarcating the boundary of a farm land.

The Lokayukta cops have arrested surveyor Kotresh from Nandibevur Tanda in Harapanahalli taluk. The surveyor had demanded a bribe of Rs 30,000 from Hulli Devendrappa, a resident of Varadapur village in Harapanahalli taluk and the complainant, who had applied for demarcating the boundaries of his farm in 2024. The complainant had given a bribe for Rs 10,000 as advance to the surveyor. The complainant had paid the bribe money through PhonPe app.

The Lokayukta cops laid a trap and caught the surveyor. DySP Sachin Chalavadi led the operation.

Sringeri recounting row: Rajegowda petitions poll panel

BENGALURU, DHNS: Congress leader T D Rajegowda, who lost the Sringeri Assembly seat to BJP's D N Jeevaraj following a recount of postal votes as per the High Court direction, has petitioned the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, alleging criminal conspiracy, forgery and fraudulently defacing the ballot papers.

Rajegowda has sought review of all CCTV footages of the first counting date (May 13, 2023) in his presence to bring out the "truth."

The Congress leader claimed that Jeevaraj had raised objection to only the 279 rejected postal ballots, which, the High Court ordered for re-verification.

"During the May 2, 2026, recount, only eight of the rejected postal ballots were accepted for counting. Of these three were rejected due to technical reasons, and of the remaining five, three were in my favour and two in favour of Jeevaraj. However, 257 valid in my bundle were rejected due to double-entry. Now, such high volume of rejection of ballots by government officials is not possible," said Rajegowda alleging a conspiracy.

"Jeevaraj, R O Vedamurthy and D C Ramesh have conspired and tampered with the ballots which were in open cover, making them invalid. The 2023 decision book signed by all, is also altered. My agent had objected to damaged boxes in the strong room," stated Rajegowda, urging the CEO to initiate criminal proceedings under Section 136 of the RP Act against the officials and the candidate.

Defeated Congress candidate T D Rajegowda arrives at the office of the state's chief electoral officer to file a complaint in connection with the recounting of votes in the Sringeri Legislative Assembly constituency, in Bengaluru on Thursday. DH PHOTO

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3rd Death Anniversary

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V.PADMAVATHI
(08.05.1943 - 12.01.2009)
FOUNDER DIRECTOR
THE PROFESSIONAL COURIERS
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Her presence always in our hearts.

DH Classifieds

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DEPARTMENT
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2 Electrical & Electronics Engineering
3 Electronics & Communication Engineering
4 Computer Science & Engineering
5 Electronics Instrumentation & Control Engineering
6 Cloud Computing (New)
7 Cyber Physical Systems & Security (New)
8 Mathematics
9 English Language
POSITIONS
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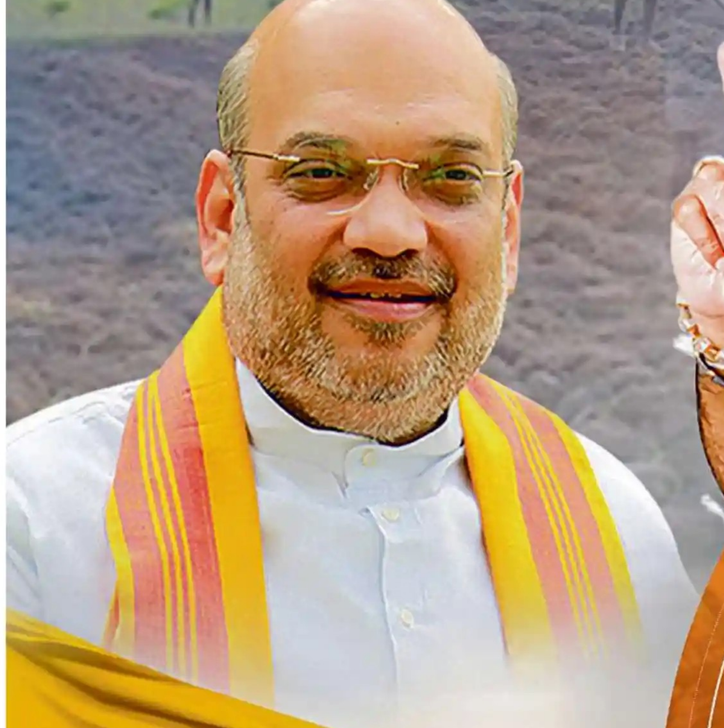

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Here's what to expect at the mango, jackfruit mela

The 10-day fair at Cubbon Park will sell regional, carbide-free fruits

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

A 10-day mango and jackfruit mela opening at Cubbon Park today will offer Bengalureans a chance to savour produce from different parts of Karnataka. As many as 50 stalls have been allotted to mango growers and seven to jackfruit sellers.

The Mango & Jackfruit Mela 2026 is being organised by the Department of Horticulture along with the Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation Limited (KSMDMCL). The fair aims to help farmers sell organic, carbide-free fruits directly to customers and get good rates for their produce. Prices will be fixed by the farmers themselves.

Last year's Mango & Jackfruit Mela at Lalbagh. Cubbon Park is holding this full-fledged fair for the first time this year. DH FILE PHOTO

Mango lovers can expect varieties such as Badami, often called Karnataka's Alphonso, along with mallika, sendura and raspuri from Ramanagara and Mandya. Farmers from Uttara Kannada will also bring the GI-tagged kari ishad, which is grown mainly in Ankola taluk. The variety is known for its intense aroma and sweetness, and almost fibreless pulp. Another variety from Uttara Kannada is the highly fibrous chalti, which can be eaten as is or used to make pickles.

KSMDMCL managing director T R Vedhamurthy said the stock of ripe jackfruit is arriving from Bengaluru Rural and Tumakuru districts. Varieties on offer include rudrakshi, Shivaratri, ekadashi, Tubagere and Lalbagh madhura.

Rudrakshi has coppery-red bulbs with moderate sweetness, while ekadashi has yellowish bulbs and a milder flavour. Tubagere is sweeter, with small-to-medium bulbs in orange, yellow or coppery-red colours. Lalbagh madhura is an oblong variety with larger bulbs that can be eaten fresh or cooked. Shivaratri has a medium level of sweetness. Apart from fruits, visitors can also try mango- and jackfruit-based dishes at the venue. These will range from ice creams to pickles, thokku, juice, and papad.

According to Vedhamurthy, this is the first time Cubbon Park is hosting a full-fledged mango and jackfruit mela. The event was organised after farmers from Ramanagara, who had an early yield this season, sought better market opportunities.

A larger edition of the fair, with wider participation from across the state, is scheduled to be held at Lalbagh Botanical Garden in the fourth week of May. "At the Lalbagh fair, we will also get the omlet variety of mango from Kolar, which is popular for pickling," Vedhamurthy added.

From May 8 to 17, 6 am to 7 pm, near the Bandstand at Cubbon Park. Entry free.

POPCORN

Flat discount

China is worried its people are becoming lazy, the *Wall Street Journal* has reported. 'Lying flat' is what the trend is called, with young people, disillusioned and depressed, staying put at home. The government is blaming 'anti-China forces' and telling its people not to shy away from the long hours and rigours its work culture is famous for. Out here in India, as you know, biz honchos are in favour of the 70-hour week that N R Narayana Murthy is championing. And the good thing is, they aren't blaming 'anti-India' forces for our laziness — they are convinced we are already atmanirbhar when it comes to lethargy.

One-track, one-day dance workshops catching on

Driven by social media trends, these weekend-only classes have become a stress-buster for city folk

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

Over the past two years, Bengaluru has become a hub for quick weekend dance workshops held by popular content creators, dancers say.

Unlike regular dance classes that focus on a specific style of dance, these two- or three-hour sessions typically feature choreography set to one track, often a trending film song. Participants learn the routine for the whole song and are given a chance to perform it at the end of the class.

The routines are catchy, the participants are a mix of professional and amateur dancers, and the instructors are always well-known content creators skilled in multiple dance forms.

Mumbai-based Noel Alexander, for instance, is trained in hip-hop and contemporary dance. With over 1million followers on Instagram, Alexander has conducted numerous workshops in Bengaluru and returns to the city every two or three months. "Bengaluru is my favourite location because the people are laidback yet passionate about dance," he says.

Mumbai-based Nicole Concessao hosts classes in the city every 2-3 months.

One of Alexander's first choreographies that went viral was set to Telugu hit 'Inkem inkem kavale' by Sid Sriram. Later, he started focusing on other South Indian languages with songs like 'Unaku than', 'Kaantha' and 'Kalyani'. "The last two songs have become extremely popular and we have been touring with those tracks over the past few months," he shares. Lately, his routines are heavier on classical and folk elements. But he also specialises in something he calls 'movement exploration' through which he has created a style unique to his own sensibilities.

He has seen participation from five-year-olds to people in the 70s and 80s. Depending on the style of choreography, he caps the classes at 50-55 to avoid injuries and overcrowding. "The number of participants have increased since I started holding these workshops," he notes.

Subculture brewing

Nicole Concessao of Team Naach, Mumbai, has been hosting similar workshops for over 10 years but points out that while they were visiting Bengaluru once or twice a year earlier, they now fly down every three months. "In Bengaluru, there's a strong dance subculture brewing," she observes. On some of her recent visits, she has trained participants to dance to 'Gehra hua' and 'Sahiba'. While the former was a semi-classical routine derived from kathak, the latter featured a Latin fusion choreography. Next, she hopes to host a class focusing on the Aishwarya Rai hit 'Daiya daiya'.

Apart from semi-classical, folk and fusion pieces, some choreographers lean more towards classical dance forms. Dr Srija Ramakrishna, a Bharatanatyam dancer from Bengaluru, noticed that her classes did not have many takers, so decided to introduce popular songs to her routines. Since then, her classes have become extremely popular. "I started with Brodha V's 'Aigiri Nandini', then I also choreographed a routine for 'Brahmakalasha' from 'Kantara' and 'Pranavalaya' from 'Shyam Singha Rao'. These are all classical songs but the steps are semi-classical," says the dentist.

Larger spaces

RTribe Dance and Wellness Space, Koramangala, which opened in June 2025, hosts different artistes every weekend. Niharika Shenoy, one of its co-founders, wanted to cater to the growing interest in this format of dance workshops and knew she had to find a space large enough to accommodate 100 to 120 participants. "Before I opened the studio, I would attend these workshops myself and some of them were a little crowded," she recalls.

For most workshops, the number is capped at 50-60 participants. And the classes are priced anywhere between Rs 800 to Rs 1,200. Good Move, a dance event company, has a 2,400 sqft space and has hosted workshops by artistes like Ishaa Sharma from Delhi and Sohum Deb from Hyderabad. But they also focus on promoting Bengaluru artistes like Srija and Ananya Shanbhag. It was set up by Janhvi Sharma, a dance enthusiast who had to give up dancing after injuring her lower back.

Ayesha Tabassum, a marketing professional in her 40s, attended a class a few weeks ago to learn the choreography for 'Shararat'. "I did not have any expectations because I have no training in dance. But it turned out to be a stress-buster. That was the bottom line. Now I'm trying to rehearse the steps to make a reel," she shares.

Five bookstores that cater to city's budding readers

Bond Over Bindings at Jakkur.

AMANDA V JAMES
TEAM METROLIFE

Over the last 15 years, Bengaluru has become home to a growing number of bookstores dedicated entirely to children. These spaces stock thousands of carefully curated titles and often double up as learning studios, hosting storytelling sessions, workshops, author interactions and read-alouds.

In Jakkur, **Bond Over Bindings (BOB)** is a two-year-old bookstore catering to children below 15. Founded by Neha and Dinesh Kumar, the store houses over 15,000 new and pre-loved books in English, Hindi and Kannada, spanning picture books, chapter books, Indian writing, global classics and hard-to-find titles.

Founded in 2019 by Sonia Lalwani, **Fun 'O' Fable** operates as an online subscription-based bookstore for children aged 0-12. The store curates monthly book boxes based on a child's age, interests and reading history, with selections guided by child education experts. Carrying over 2,000 titles, the platform focuses on less known but critically acclaimed children's books, including Newbery and Caldecott award winners.

Now in its 13th year, **Lightroom** in Cooke Town stocks between 6,000 and 8,000 titles for readers aged 0-18. The store also hosts workshops, reading sessions and exhibitions.

Established in 2013, **Funky Rainbow** in J P Nagar exclusively stocks children's books by Indian authors for readers aged 0-18. Run by writers, illustrators and creative professionals, the store also operates as a travelling bookstore and book consultancy.

Meanwhile, **Booksetgo**, founded in 2018, shifted its focus entirely to children's books before opening a physical store in Seegehalli in 2022. Founder Supriya Anand said the store now caters to children aged 0-15, with activity books emerging as a favourite among readers.

MOTHER'S DAY

New mom? Support groups for you

Mothers in Bengaluru are finding solidarity, support and practical help through different stages of parenthood

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Ahead of Mother's Day, *Metrolife* takes a look at Bengaluru-based communities that are helping mothers find support, friendship and guidance through different stages of parenting and motherhood.

Alpha Beta Mumma

Founded by Kritika Gupta, the group began as a small private WhatsApp network in Bengaluru in 2023 and has since grown into a community of over 7,000 members. A mother of two, Kritika says the initiative stemmed from the loneliness that often accompanies motherhood.

The community currently operates through 10 WhatsApp groups. Membership is free, and discussions range from parenting concerns and childcare recommendations to relationships, health and emotional wellbeing. Alongside the main group are dedicated subgroups for job opportunities, entrepreneurial collaborations, and mother-led businesses.

"Sometimes mothers ask about schools or doctors. Sometimes they talk about issues with partners or in-laws and other times it is as simple as bicycle recommendations for their child," Kritika says.

The community restricts unsolicited promotions and surveys. The group also organises regular meet-ups across the city, including park gatherings, play sessions, mini treks, and dance and jamming events.

Check @alphabetamumma on Instagram.

Mommipedia

Shweta Amane started Mommipedia through a simple Instagram reel inviting mothers to join a support group, which soon evolved into a growing online parenting community. While the Instagram page began about a year ago, the WhatsApp group was launched around three months ago. The community has over 900 mothers across four WhatsApp groups.

The Bengaluru community focuses on parenting discussions, baby-related recommendations, children's activities and day-to-day support. "If someone needs help with doctors, baby health or parenting concerns, other mothers step in and help," says the Whitefield-based networking engineer. The group's sub-groups are to discuss job opportunities, products and services by "mompreneurs" and pre-loved baby products.

The platform has hosted a free online nutrition workshop in the past, and informal meet-ups and play dates. The group is planning its first official Bengaluru meet-up this month.

Check @mommipedia_ on Instagram.

Around 30 families went on a farm visit organised by Alpha Beta Mumma in Hosur in April.

Bangalore Birth Network

Registered in 2014, the network was started to give women a better understanding of pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum care through accessible, evidence-based information and support, says co-founder Asha Kilaru.

The network helps mothers understand medically necessary procedures and interventions carried out largely for convenience or routine practice. Asha points to concerns such as high Caesarean-section rates, unnecessary labour inductions and lack of awareness around evidence-backed birth and postpartum practices as issues many women struggle to navigate.

The network provides information, referrals, and support for women from pre-pregnancy and childbirth to postpartum recovery, while also helping connect them with healthcare providers and allied services.

Check bangalorebirth.org or @bangalorebirthnetwork on Instagram.

New book on sex workers

SHARON NATASHA
TEAM METROLIFE

Author, bureaucrat and filmmaker, Swati Pandey, spoke about her book, 'Invisible in Plain Sight: Voices from the By-Lanes of Kamathipura', at a Prabha Khaitan Foundation event in Bengaluru on May 6.

The book documents the lives of women in Mumbai's oldest red-light district. Swati, who is also the vice chairman and managing director of Maharashtra Airport Development Company, recalled visiting the Mumbai Central Head Post Office during the Covid-19 lockdown, where she encountered groups of women carrying children and struggling without food or income.

These were women engaged in sex work and their livelihoods had disappeared during the lockdown. Many of their children were born at home and remained unregistered. Without a permanent address, they were unable to access government scholarships and welfare schemes. Swati said she then raised the issue with UIDAI, after which the post office was accepted as address proof. When several women expressed discomfort visiting offices where male staff allegedly demanded sexual favours, she established an all-women post office within Kamathipura. "These girls had become my family," she added. It was their encouragement that led her to begin documenting her experiences which eventually became the basis of the book.

Swati Pandey helped set up a post office in Kamathipura, Mumbai, for sex workers. DH PHOTO / B K JANARDHAN

Swati said her ability to approach the community without judgement stemmed from her upbringing in Malkangiri, Odisha, where her caretaker, Mira Didi, belonged to the Maria Gond tribe, which practices Ghotul. This tradition treats premarital relationships without stigma.

EVENTS

Rap and comedy show

Rapper and podcaster Adi, and comedian Aamir Peeran will perform as part of the Sumadhura Centre Court Pickleball League on May 9, 4.30 pm at Chamara Vajra, Palace Grounds. To register to watch the show, visit @centrecourtblr on Instagram.

Dance performance

Cornucopia Creations will hold their annual dance showcase and cultural event, 'Ullasa', on May 10, 1 pm onwards at Seva Sadan, Malleswaram. For tickets, contact 96639 39931.

Kannada play

The Bangalore Players Theatre Company will stage 'Lakshmi Kataksha', at 4.30 pm, and 'Gaampara Gumpu', at 7 pm, on May 9, at KEA Prabhath Rangamandira, Basaveshwara Nagara. Tickets online.

Choral tribute

As part of a Rabindra Jayanti celebration, a hundred voices will come together to pay homage to Rabindranath Tagore. The event is conceptualised by Arundhati Dev and is being hosted by Malancha Institute of Performing Arts on May 10, 6 pm at Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleswaram. For passes, contact 86188 82464.

Once Upon a FRAME

The toy train at Bal Bhavan in Cubbon Park being flagged off in 1968. DH ARCHIVES

Mothers and children wait to board the toy train on Wednesday. DH PHOTO / B K JANARDHAN

Flagged off in late 1968, the 'Putani Express' has created core memories for generations of Bengaluru children. Its tiny coaches have rattled past giant rain trees on dappled afternoons as well as drizzle-dampened twilights. For around six decades, it has faithfully circled a nearly one-km stretch of Cubbon Park. 'Putani', meaning little in Kannada, was never merely a name — the train itself was a child-sized stand-in for wonder. The 8-10-minute loop, once powered by diesel and now electricity, offered many Bengalureans their first experience of railway travel. Even after shutdowns, cracked tracks, and restorations, the little train endures, faithfully chugging away.

Once Upon A Frame is a new monthly column that revisits Bengaluru through then-and-now photographs, pairing archival images with frames from the same spots today. From vanished facades to surviving street corners, readers are invited to send in old photographs, memories, and suggestions for places they would like us to revisit across the city. Write to **metrolife@deccanherald.co.in**

NCRB REPORT 2024 DATA: Most crimes against fairer sex pertain to assault, followed by dowry and cruelty

Crimes against women down, but justice eludes

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The number of crimes against women in Karnataka has come down marginally by close to 2% from 2023 and 2024, according to the data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). The trend has been similar even in Bengaluru.

At 4,427, the data showed that cases of assault or use of criminal force against women with an intent to outrage her modesty are among the highest reported. Apart from that, dowry cases and cruelty by husband or his family continue to be reported.

While the data showed that the cases have come down, further analysis also revealed that the number of cases being disposed of at the courts has been very low. At the beginning of 2024, close to 92,217 cases related to crime against women were pending trial at the courts and of these, only 10,781 were disposed of. What's more, of these, only 500 ended in a conviction and another 10,000 of them were acquitted.

At 4,427, the data showed that cases of assault or use of criminal force against women with an intent to outrage her modesty are among the highest reported.

Social activists working closely with women said that the number of cases has not come down on the ground, but the women were not willing to report them owing to poor conviction rates and other reasons.

"We don't trust that the cases have actually come down. Many women are scared to report. Many of them are worried about how well the police will investigate. Many others don't want to keep running around to courts since the cases are dragged for years," said KS Vimala of Janavaadi Mahila Sanghatane.

The activists said that there was a lack of evidence and a missing will to develop a strong case in the police department and that it was the state's responsibility to protect women. "There have been a few cases where the accused has been acquitted due to lack of evidence or some legal loophole. This should be addressed," she said.

Doctors attribute the increase in heart diseases to increasing stress and poor sleep. Cardiologists suggest that preventive screening is a must since early detection and treatment could save lives.

Sudden deaths due to heart attack on the rise

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The number of sudden deaths due to heart attack has increased by nearly 25%, between 2022 and 2024, in Karnataka, according to the data by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Over the last few years, many instances of sudden heart attacks have been reported and videos of people suddenly collapsing have gone viral, creating a scare among people.

Preventive screening is a must to save lives: Doctors

While the state government has ruled out the probability of Covid vaccination resulting in such deaths, doctors opined that the lifestyle changes and lack of preventive screening may have increased deaths.

"Now, we also see many youngsters dying due to heart attacks. Multiple factors could result in such cardiac events. Smoking is one of the strongest triggers. That apart, sedentary lifestyle, obesity, and increasing diabetes among the younger population increase the risk of heart diseases," said Dr Yashodha Ravi, Cardiologist.

Doctors also attribute the increase in heart diseases to increasing stress and poor sleep. Cardiologists suggest that preventive screening is a must since early detection and treatment could save lives.

The State health department has also put in place many measures to prevent sudden deaths. From the installation of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in public areas to introducing the Puneeth Rajkumar Hrudaya Jyothi scheme for emergency care and increasing CPR training, a host of measures have been put in place.

State sees about a third of identity thefts in India

Bengaluru reports 61% of cases in metropolitan cities

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

Nearly one in three cases of identity theft in India were reported from Karnataka in 2024, an analysis of the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report has shown.

Bengaluru, too, had the lion's share with nearly 61% of the identity theft cases among 19 metropolitan cities with over 20 lakh population, including Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi.

The data analysis by *DH* was from the annual 'Crime In India - 2024' report released by NCRB on Wednesday.

As per the report, Karnataka had the highest number of identity theft cases in 2024 at 1,191. This was around 33% of the total identity thefts reported in all states and Union Territories (3,668), the report noted.

Further analysis of the data revealed that Bengaluru had reported 550 cases of identity theft in 2024. The total cases reported by the 19 metropolitan cities were 902. However, both the city and the state have had an interesting trend since 2022.

While in all three years, Karnataka and Bengaluru topped the charts for the highest number of cases, they saw a declining trend.

The state had reported 3,752 cases of identity theft in 2022 and 2,411 in 2023. Bengaluru, on the other hand, had reported 2,876 cases in 2022 and 844 cases in 2023.

Cybercrime investigators attributed the large number of cases to a better reporting structure in the state and increased use and reliance on technology among its population.

"The higher number of identity theft cases in the state and the city is similar to why they have the most cybercrime cases: one is better reporting. We have dedicated cybercrime stations and a strict Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) when it comes to registering cybercrime cases," a senior police officer in Bengaluru told *DH*.

"Second, compared to other Metropolitan cities, the population in Bengaluru and several parts of the state is very technologically-savvy and uses it for many of their daily tasks, making them more vulnerable to identity thefts," the officer added.

Another officer attributed the declining cases to a change in modus operandi.

"By the end of 2023 and most of 2024, we saw cybercriminals transitioning into advanced modus operandi like investment frauds and digital arrest scams. This is one of the factors for a decline in identity theft cases," the officer added.

Crimes against senior citizens doubled in state in 2024

BENGALURU, DHNS: Crimes against senior citizens more than doubled in Karnataka in 2024, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data.

In 2024, the state recorded 4,247 cases, a big increase compared to 1,840 cases in 2023 and 1,583 cases in 2022.

It saw a chargesheeting rate of 78.6% and an overall rate of crimes against senior citizens of 73.3%.

As per data, Karnataka saw the third-highest number of crimes against the elderly, falling behind Madhya Pradesh, which recorded 5,875 cases and Maharashtra, which recorded 4,918 cases in the same year.

Some of the crimes reported were dacoity, snatching, robbery, forgery, kidnapping and abduction and grievous hurt.

Among metropolitan cities, Bengaluru ranked third with 660 registered cases of crimes against senior citizens — Delhi recorded 1,267 cases and Mumbai 791. The numbers have remained consistent for Bengaluru, as the city recorded 649 cases in 2023 and 458 in 2022.

Of the 660 crimes, the report stated that no cases of rape, sexual harassment, culpable homicide amounting to murder and dacoity were reported against senior citizens in the city.

Cases of forgery, cheating and fraud made up the largest chunk of the cases in Bengaluru, amounting to 370 cases. Taking these crimes into account, Bengaluru saw a charge-sheeting rate of 57.4%, down from 64.1% in 2023.

Murder cases on the decline

Disputes remain top motive for killings in state

BENGALURU, DHNS

Murder cases in Karnataka continue to see a downward trend even in 2024, according to the latest figures released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

The NCRB released its annual Crime In India - 2024 report on Wednesday.

According to the data analysed by *DH*, the state witnessed 1,228 murder cases in 2024 — a 7.11% decline from 2023, when the state reported 1,322 cases. In 2022, the state had reported 1,404 cases of murder, the data showed.

The report also revealed that 89.7% murder cases were chargesheeted in 2024, leading to trials and further legal action. This was an improvement from the 88.8% the previous year.

Even in 2024, disputes remained the top motive for murders in the state, which reported 557 cases in the category. In 2023, the state reported 496 murders caused by disputes.

According to the report, of the 557 cases, 143 were property/land disputes, 166 were family disputes, and 155 cases arose out of petty quarrels. Murders from disputes were followed by illicit relationships (135 cases) and personal vendetta (104 cases). The state also reported 31 cases of murders for gain, the report showed.

Further, the report revealed that the state had 41 murder victims who were below the age of 6, 28 in the 6-12 age group, 25 in the 12-16 age group, and 19 in the 16-18 age group, taking the total number of child victims to 113, of which 63 were females.

The state capital, Bengaluru, in 2024, too, saw a declining trend in murder cases. According to the report, the city reported 176 murders in 2024 — a 14.56 % decline from 206 in 2023. The chargesheeting rate in 2024 improved from 91% the previous year to 94%, the report showed.

Lowest chargesheeting rate in kidnapping cases in Bengaluru

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

With 1,252 cases of kidnapping and abduction recorded in Bengaluru in 2024, the city continues to have the lowest chargesheet rate for such cases in the country, compared to other metropolitan cities, with a chargesheet rate of 4.5%, as per the NCRB report for 2024.

The newly released report shows a slight increase in Bengaluru's chargesheeting rate, which was 3.8% in 2023. In 2022, the rate was 4.7%, again lowest among the metros.

As per the report, Karnataka recorded 3,996 cases, compared to 3,744 cases in 2023 and 3,365 cases in 2022.

The state saw a kidnapping and abduction rate of 5.9%, and a chargesheeting rate of 6.2%.

Karnataka's chargesheeting rate was one of the lowest in the country, second only to Meghalaya (5.7%).

In comparison, the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu had 60.9%, Kerala 86.2%, Andhra Pradesh 67.8% and Telangana 26.2%.

"A chargesheet is only filed after investigation. If there isn't enough evidence, or if the allegation is proven factually incorrect, then a chargesheet isn't filed. We have a committee to ensure due diligence is done in all cases. Such cases can't be generalised," Seemant Kumar Singh, Bengaluru City Police Commissioner, said.

Of the 1,252 recorded cases in Bengaluru, 1,172 victims were children — 28 below six years, 59 aged between 6 years and 12 years, 530 aged between 12 and 16 years, and 555 aged between 16 and 18 years.

Of the recorded victims, including both adults and children, 828 were female and 424 were male.

Crimes involving foreigners steady

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

While Karnataka continues to be a major hub for international tourists and expatriates, it has maintained a steady trend in crimes against foreigners.

According to latest NCRB data, Karnataka recorded 32 cases of crimes against foreign nationals in 2024, same as last year.

The state's law enforcement showed a robust response, achieving a chargesheeting rate of 87.5% in these cases, significantly higher than national average of 68.0%. In 2022, state recorded 28 such cases.

Bengaluru, which hosts the bulk of the state's foreign population, saw 10 cases of crimes committed by foreigners under various sections of BNS/IPC. Also, city police registered 46 cases under Foreigners Act and Registration of Foreigners Act, and 2 under Passport Act, involving foreign nationals.

A senior officer told *DH*, "While foreign travellers are often targeted in crimes of opportunity, like theft or overcharging by local cab or auto drivers, it is the long-term foreign residents who more often find themselves in complex legal disputes or targeted in physical assault cases".

At national level, theft remains most common crime against foreigners, with 62 cases reported in 2024. This was followed by 25 cases under Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act and 20 cases of rape. Out of 257 total victims across India, 156 were foreign tourists, while 101 were residents or other foreigners.

On the flip side, crimes committed by foreigners in India are heavily dominated by violations of Foreigners Act and Registration of Foreigners Act (372 cases) and Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act (544).

In Karnataka specifically, apart from the 10 BNS/IPC cases, there were 14 cases registered under other Special and Local Laws (SLL) involving foreign accused.

The data highlights a significant pendency in judicial system. Across India, 1,308 cases of crimes against foreigners were up for trial in 2024, of which 1,136 were carried over from previous years.

In cases where foreigners were accused, conviction rate stood at 86% nationally. Specifically, for violations of Foreigners Act, conviction rate was a high 97.2%, whereas it was 62.5% for NDPS Act cases.

"We are constantly conducting special operations to verify status of foreign nationals in the city. Our priority is to identify those overstaying their visas or engaging in illegal activities. We have produced several individuals before the Foreign Regional Registration Office and are seeking their deportation to maintain public order and curb activities like drug peddling," the officer said.

Suicides, traffic accidents claimed 25,550 lives in state

BENGALURU, DHNS

As many as 12,399 people died in traffic accidents, while suicides claimed 13,151 lives in the state, according to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report for 2024. In all, 25,550 people died in suicides and traffic accidents.

Among 53 major cities, Bengaluru recorded 894 deaths and 4,022 injuries. It accounted for 5.6% of all road accident deaths reported across 53 large cities. Delhi topped list (2,181 deaths), while Jaipur came second (1,001).

The report underscores poor road safety in Karnataka amid rising vehicle population, bad roads and reckless driving.

Consider this. Karnataka reported second highest number of road accident deaths caused by speeding, with 10,614 fatalities. TN topped list with 13,765 such deaths.

Karnataka also reported 6.8% of all road accident fatalities on national highways. Only Uttar Pradesh (12.5%), TN (10.4%), Maharashtra (8.4%) and Madhya Pradesh (7.7%) were ahead.

In all, Karnataka reported 43,071 traffic accidents and 31,034 accidental deaths, which also cover fatalities caused by fire incidents, drowning, falls and so on.

Bengaluru reported 4,597 accidental deaths. Only Mumbai (8,655) and Pune (5,412) were ahead. In 2023, Bengaluru reported 4,414 such deaths.

Karnataka also reported high suicide numbers. At 13,151, it was behind only Maharashtra (22,174), Tamil Nadu (19,965) and MP (15,491). West Bengal (12,931) was fifth. These 5 states accounted for 49% of all suicides in India.

Among 53 mega-cities, Delhi reported 2,905 suicides, followed by Bengaluru 2,403, Chennai 1,525 and Mumbai 1,406. The 4 cities reported 31.5% of total suicides in mega-cities. In Bengaluru, suicides increased by 1.4% (2,370 in 2023 to 2,403 in 2024).

Suicides are rising in Bengaluru due to untreated mental health issues, family conflicts, financial stress, workplace burnout, loneliness, academic pressure and urban isolation. Experts cite post-pandemic stress, rising living costs and better reporting systems. Young adults, students, migrants and tech workers are among the most vulnerable.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104)

IPL final venue shift likely due to commercial viability: HM

BENGALURU, DHNS

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Thursday said that commercial viability may have been the reason the BCCI decided to change the venue of the IPL final from Bengaluru to Ahmedabad.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, the minister clarified that the venue change didn't have anything to do with giving match tickets to legislators.

"This has nothing to do with it. How many passes have been given? What difference will four passes make?" the Home Minister asked.

The BCCI had announced on Wednesday that the IPL final on May 31 will be held at the Narendra Modi Stadium instead of the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.

Parameshwara

"Five matches have been played here, and there weren't any security complaints. They (BCCI) have no complaints regarding the arrangements. There have been no complaints from the IPL, RCB or KSCA about police or administration," Parameshwara said.

The home minister said that unofficially, it was learnt that of the 33,000 seats at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, around 7,000-8,000 seats are blocked for VIPs, sponsors, RCB and the teams playing the final match.

"Only about 25,000 passes will remain. Since it will not work out commercially, they might have decided to shift the match to Ahmedabad, which has a one-lakh-seat capacity. Since the beginning, this has been discussed. KSCA wanted the match to happen in Bengaluru. Their rules state that the first and last matches should be held at the home turf of the defending champion. Perhaps, it appears, BCCI made an exception," he added.

HC imposes cost on KKRTC for suppression of facts in accident case

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has imposed a cost of Rs 25,000 upon the Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC) for suppression of material facts and adoption of mutually destructive stands in an accident case.

A division bench comprising Justices Suraj Govindaraj and Chillakur Sumalatha found that the corporation, on one hand fixed responsibility on its own employees and on the other moved the court attributing negligence to the deceased.

The case pertains to the death of Vinod Kumar, a government employee at the Revenue Department. On June 20, 2023, Vinod had boarded the KKRTC bus and was standing at the rear door. As the bus took a sharp left turn near Kanni Market in Kalaburagi, Vinod lost balance and fell on the road. The bus driver did not stop and sped away. Vinod Kumar was treated at a hospital in Kalaburagi for three days before succumbing to injuries.

On March 14, 2025, the accident tribunal at Kalaburagi awarded Rs 1.1 crore compensation to the family members of Vinod with 6% interest. The KKRTC challenged the verdict contending that Vinod Kumar Mane was at fault as he was standing at the doorway of the bus.

When the division bench sought to know as to whether any disciplinary proceedings had been initiated by the KKRTC, it was submitted that the driver, who was working on contract basis, had been removed from service and the conductor had been imposed a punishment of withholding of one annual increment permanently.

The division bench noted that after a finding of culpability against its employees, the corporation cannot be permitted to contend that the deceased himself was negligent. "Such a stand is inherently contradictory and legally impermissible. It is a settled principle that a party cannot be permitted to approbate and reprobate. A party cannot "blow hot and cold" by taking inconsistent stands to suit its convenience, such inconsistent pleas are impermissible in law," the bench said.

The bench further said the cost imposed, payable to the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority, shall be recovered from the officers responsible for authorising and pursuing the appeal, after conducting an appropriate internal inquiry.

Directions to KKRTC

The bench directed the Managing Director of KKRTC to issue appropriate administrative instructions/circulars mandating full disclosure of all material facts, including disciplinary proceedings arising out of the same incident, in all judicial proceedings. The bench asked KKRTC to put in place a litigation scrutiny mechanism to ensure consistency in pleadings and positions taken before courts and tribunals and fix accountability in cases where inconsistent or misleading stands are taken before judicial and quasi-judicial forums.

Hindi-only exams: Pro-Kannada bodies threaten statewide rail roko

BENGALURU, DHNS: Pro-Kannada activists have threatened to paralyse railway services across Karnataka, protesting the exclusion of Kannada in South Western Railway (SWR) departmental promotion exams.

The Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV) issued a warning after it was revealed that exams for 73 posts, including office superintendent and senior clerk, are being conducted only in Hindi and English. Activists argue this violates the three-language formula and unfairly denies local employees career growth.

"If Kannada is not included immediately, we will stop every train entering or leaving the state," a KRV leader warned, urging Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to intervene. While the CM pointed to the Centre's responsibility, the KRV has demanded a firm stand against linguistic injustice.

Parallelly, the Kannada Development Authority has written to the Transport Department seeking mandatory Kannada lessons for non-local cab and auto drivers to prevent frequent language-related altercations with passengers.

Job fair for people with disabilities in August

BENGALURU, DHNS: Skill Development Minister Sharan Prakash Patil announced on Thursday that an exclusive job fair for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) will be held in the month of August.

The Adidvara job fair, to be held at Kanteerava Stadium in the city, is expected to be a large-scale inclusive employment and skilling festival designed to connect job-ready PwDs with employers, training partners and assistive technology startups.

Patil announced this at the launch of the Adidvara App — an inclusive employment and skilling platform.

The platform intends to connect the PwDs to employment opportunities, internships, and upskilling programs, while enabling employers to post inclusive job roles and access a diverse talent pool. The platform's AI-powered job-candidate matching engine seeks to align skills, interests and accessibility requirements with suitable roles to support "meaningful" and "outcome-focused hiring."

"Persons with disabilities are second to none. They are as talented as anyone else, and corporates must extend them equal opportunity and treatment during hiring," the minister said.

At the event, Patil also unveiled the official logo for the upcoming job fair.

Employers from IT, retail, manufacturing, BFSI, hospitality, services and other sectors are expected to participate in the fair. Over 3,000 job seekers with disabilities — representing all 21 notified disability categories — are expected to attend the event.

Modi to address public outside HAL Airport on Sunday

BENGALURU, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to deliver a public address at the HAL Airport this Sunday after the party's maiden poll victory in West Bengal, Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka said.

"The prime minister will land in HAL at around 9 am. On behalf of the people of Bengaluru, we will felicitate him. He will spend about half an hour with us. He will address all of us outside the HAL airport," Ashoka, who is in charge of this event, said and urged citizens to participate in the programme. After this, Modi will attend an event to mark the 45th anniversary of The Art of Living and inaugurate the newly constructed Dhyan Mandir.

Deficit summer rains hit pre-kharif work; mango, coffee yield to drop

Pre-monsoon showers uneven in state; No respite from heat

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Karnataka has reported a 11% deficit in summer showers this year, with the south interior and Malnad regions recording the highest deficit.

Between March 1 and May 7, the state was supposed to receive an average of 54 mm of rainfall. However, this year, the state overall received 48 mm of rainfall.

South interior Karnataka (SIK) received only 47 mm of pre-monsoon showers against a normal of 68 mm (30% deficit). The Malnad region received only 66 mm of rainfall against a normal of 84 mm (21% deficit).

North interior Karnataka (NIK), the hottest region in the state, received 16% excess summer showers, while the three coastal districts cumulatively received 11% deficit rainfall.

The summer showers are vital not only to bring down the temperature, but also for agricultural purposes. Farmers use the pre-monsoon showers to prepare their fields for kharif cultivation by enhancing the moisture content in their fields.

One of the worst-impacted crops by the lack of pre-monsoon showers is coffee in the Malnad region. Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru and Hassan produce over 70% of India's total coffee.

Former Coffee Board member Uday Kumar says summer showers (also known as coffee showers) are very vital as this is the period when coffee plants start developing berries.

"Lack of showers could impact nearly 20% of the yield in the coming days," he says.

Though a majority of coffee estate owners have employed sprinkler systems, they cannot replace the natural process. "Sprinkler system lacks the uniformity that natural rain provides," he says.

Sources in the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre (KSNDMC) told *DH* that pre-monsoon showers weren't uniform across the north Karnataka region. "While some regions saw hailstorms and intense rainfall for a short period, there were several places in the region that have not recorded a single day of summer showers," says a senior scientist at KSNDMC.

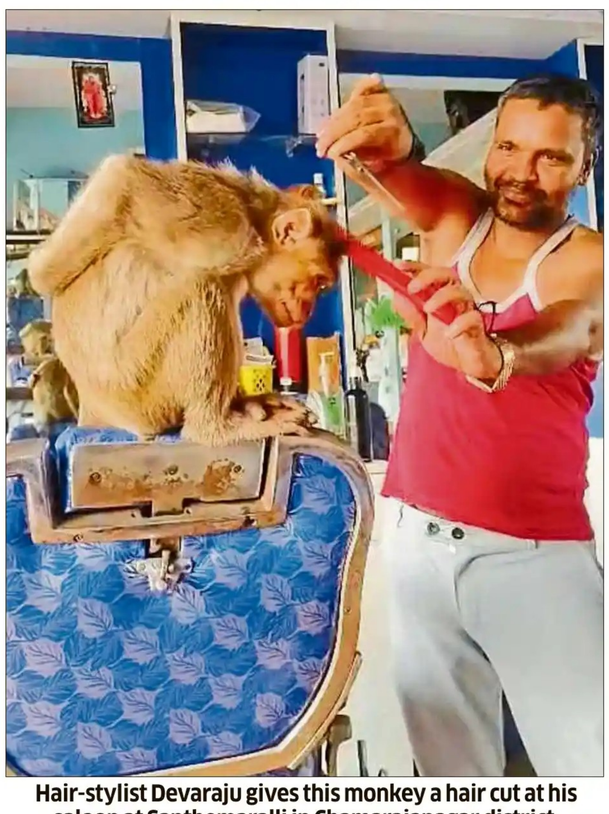
He says pre-monsoon showers are very important in providing environmental relief by bringing down the temperature.

"Many of the villages and taluks in Raichur, Yadgir, Vijayapura, Bidar, Ballari and Kalaburagi are constantly recording upwards of 41º Celsius. Due to lack of rain, there is no relief for people. In the long run, it could impact their health," said the scientist.

Summer showers, also known as mango showers, had both positive and negative impacts on mango farmers in Kolar, Koppal and Dharwad districts. Hailstorms accompanied by gusty winds resulted in the falling of mangoes from trees in Dharwad.

For Darshan Gowda, a farmer from Srinivaspur in Kolar district, multiple mango showers came at the right time and he expects a better yield this season.

STYLISH SIMIAN



Hair-stylist Devaraju gives this monkey a hair cut at his saloon at Santhemaralli in Chamarajanagar district.

Population control can't be imposed: Bhagwat

MYSURU, DHNS

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday said population control cannot be imposed, though demographic imbalance remains linked to the issue.

Speaking at the 15th Golden Jubilee special lecture series of JSS Mahavidyapeetha at Suttur Mutt, he stressed that people must be educated to follow any population policy voluntarily.

Responding to another question, Bhagwat said the Uniform Civil Code has already been implemented in some states and may eventually be extended across Bharat.

Speaking on social harmony, he said untouchability arose because society forgot the spirit of oneness and created divisions of "high" and "low".

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Sarasanghachalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat releases the book 'Atmano Mokshartham Jagat Hithaya Cha' in Mysuru on Thursday.

Citing Dr B R Ambedkar, he said social equality is essential for political and economic equality, and that harmony comes through belongingness and goodwill.

Pointing at the unrest across the world, including wars, Bhagwat said, "Wars are caused by needs and petty interests, because we do not want to share what we have."

He advocated restrained consumerism and equitable distribution for true development. Bhagwat also underlined the importance of Dharma in maintaining harmony and social order.

Farm-sector suicides see small national drop in 2024, but rise 23% in Karnataka

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Suicides by farmers and agricultural labourers came down slightly in 2024 compared to the previous year, but Karnataka saw a 22.61% rise — from 2,423 to 2,971 — in such cases during the year, the Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India 2024 report has said.

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report, released on Wednesday, showed that there were 10,546 suicides by people engaged in the farming sector across the country in 2024 as against 10,786 cases in 2023 — a 2.22% decrease.

Of the 10,546 cases of suicide, 4,633 were of farmers, while 5,913 were of agricultural labourers. By numbers, the farm sector accounted for 6.2% of all suicides in the country.

An analysis showed that Karnataka — which was second on the list of states with the most farm-sector suicides after Maharashtra — and Madhya Pradesh were the only two states in the top five that saw a spike in suicides by people engaged in agriculture.

A break-up of the data showed 1,770 farmers (up from 1,425 in 2023) and 1,201 agricultural labourers (up from 998in 2023) died by suicide in Karnataka in 2024, indicating a tough year for those engaged in the farming sector that year in the state.

Overall, 2,811 men and 160 women died by suicide in Karnataka's farming sector.

Nationally, Maharashtra had the highest number of such suicides at 3,824 — down from 4,151. They included 3,604 men and 220 women.

Andhra Pradesh (780 cases, down from 925) and Tamil Nadu (503 cases, down from 631) followed Karnataka and MP — which had 835 cases, which was an increase from 777 — in the top-five list.

Among the other states, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Puducherry also recorded a rise — albeit marginal — in cases of suicides in the farming community. Incidentally, the reasons for farmers' suicides were not recorded in the report.

Of the 4,633 farmers across India who took their own lives in 2024, the report showed 4,134 were cultivating their own land while 499 had taken land on lease.

Among those farmers who owned land but died by suicide, 2,080 belonged to Maharashtra and 1,617 belonged to Karnataka.

All India Kisan Sabha general secretary Vijoo Krishnan said the NCRB statistics did not reflect the reality of the country, as they did not include the suicides of the poor peasants who became migrant workers due to the agrarian crisis in rural areas.

"The intensity of the agrarian crisis in the country is very strong. Several agricultural labourers had to leave their rural households as there was no job creation. Statistical jugglery will not help farmers or agricultural labourers or hide the crisis," he said.

Iran reviewing US proposal...

Iran, From Page 1

"We hope the parties will reach a peaceful and sustainable solution that will contribute not only to peace in our region but to international peace as well."

But he declined to give a timeline, saying Pakistan would not disclose details of the ongoing diplomatic efforts.

Asked whether Pakistan was expecting any response from Iran later Thursday, Andrabi said: "I will not comment on specifics or the movement of the messages."

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, speaking in televised remarks, said Islamabad remained in "continuous contact with Iran and the US, day and night, to stop the war and extend the ceasefire."

Earlier, US news outlet Axios, citing two officials, reported that both Tehran and Washington were close to agreement on a one-page memorandum of understanding to end the war and set a framework for negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme.

For 6th year, B'luru tops metros...

NCRB, From Page 1

Some residents said dangling cables and power lines on footpaths must be taken seriously.

"Due to such cables and broken footpaths, many of us walk on roads, leading to accidents. To walk on footpaths, we are worried that power lines and cables might harm us," said Manya, a resident of JP Nagar.

When asked about poor footpath infrastructure and road conditions, an official from the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) said they were clearing footpaths of encroachments and working to ensure better facilities. The official blamed other agencies for the deaths.

"Other agencies such as BWSSB and Bescom dig up the roads. While potholes and poor footpaths cause some inconvenience, there are fewer or no deaths due to these. We need to hold other agencies accountable," the official said.

Residents said pothole-free roads and clear footpaths were basic amenities that the government must provide.

"There have been instances when people met with accidents due to poor road conditions. Politicians and bureaucrats set deadlines but hardly anything is done. Roadworks and footpaths should be prioritised," said Joseph, a resident of North Bengaluru.

Citizens have often pointed to poor coordination between agencies in the city and how many incidents go unaccounted for with each agency blaming the other.

Vijay reaches out to Left, VCK to form govt

Vijay, From Page 1

Meanwhile, the CPM, CPI and VCK condemned the Governor for not inviting TVK to form the government. The Congress has announced a protest on Friday in all district headquarters against Arlekar's insistence on proving the numbers before the floor test.

However, the TVK did not speak about the developments but insisted that it has only reached out to "secular parties" and never touched base with the AIADMK for support.

Leaders of the three parties also met DMK President M K Stalin, who is believed to have told them to take a decision on their own in the matter.

Sources said TVK made a "technical error" while staking a claim to form the government, which forced the Governor to insist on the exact numbers before the swearing-in. The letter included the names of 112 MLAs, including five from the Congress, and staked a claim to form a coalition government, not from the single largest party. "That is the confusion," a source said.

Constitutional experts said the Governor has the responsibility to see that the person who stakes a claim to form the government has the requisite number. He can form an opinion that whether he enjoys the majority and appointment of the chief minister is entirely the discretion of the Governor, they said.

As the Governor took a hard stance, asking TVK to demonstrate that it has the support of 117 MLAs, the actor-politician fast-tracked the process of enlisting the support of CPM, CPI, VCK, and IUML by sending his lieutenants to meet leaders of the above-mentioned parties.

While C T R Nirmal Kumar met leaders of CPI and CPM, former IRS officer Dr K G Arunraj met IUML chief Khadar Mohideen and sought support of their MLAs to enable TVK to form the government.

Left parties said they will discuss the invitation from TVK on Friday, while IUML ruled out support for now. Vijay himself spoke to VCK leader Thol Thirumavalavan, who stated that he will take a decision "very soon."

State to move SC on sticking to MGNREGA

Decides to frame action for current year

BENGALURU, DHNS

The cabinet meeting on Thursday decided to approach the Supreme Court, requesting to allow the state to continue the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (MGNREGA) and to frame an action plan for the current year.

Following the delay by the Union government in issuing a notification regarding the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (VB G RAM G) and questioning the snatching away of the state government's Constitutional right to work by the Central government, it has decided to file a petition before the Supreme Court immediately.

Briefing the media after the meeting, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil said, "We are already in May, but the Union government has not issued a notification regarding the implementation of VB G RAM G. Instead, they just issued a circular asking the states to continue the existing work under MGNREGA without giving any funds. Following this, we are approaching the Supreme Court."

He further stated that there are no alternate arrangements announced by the Union government for MGNREGA. "In the interest of the public, MGNREGA is necessary, and we will be asking the court to allow us to frame an action plan," he added.

It can be recalled that in December 2025, the Centre passed the VB G RAM G Act, replacing the MGNREGA.

Panel for SEP implementation

The cabinet has also decided to constitute a cabinet sub-committee for the implementation of the recommendations of the State Education Policy Commission (SEP).

Chairman of the Commission Sukhadeo Thorat was called to brief the recommendations to the cabinet.

The subject was deferred twice earlier, and on Thursday, the chief minister was given the power to constitute a subcommittee.

The ministers were given the report's details on April 30 to study and present their views.

2% quota for sports achievers

With the intention of providing 2% reservation in recruitment to posts in the State Civil Services for those who have made significant achievements in sports, the Cabinet has approved the Karnataka Civil Services (General) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2026.

This bill will be tabled in the upcoming legislature session.

Similarly, approval has been given to the Karnataka Motor Transport and Other Related Workers Social Security and Welfare (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

'Anti-farmer' banking rules: Leaders seek RBI intervention

BENGALURU, DHNS

A delegation of farmer leaders, led by Kurubur Shanthakumar, president of the Karnataka state farmer organisations' federation, held a meeting with senior officials of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday to raise serious concerns over recently implemented banking regulations.

The meeting was held at the RBI regional office here with general manager Meenakshi Gad and manager Vijayashree. The farmer representatives submitted a memorandum, demanding the immediate withdrawal of stringent and impractical rules for gold loans and agricultural credit.

Shanthakumar said the new RBI guidelines, effective from April 1, seem designed to push farmers away from formal banking and into the clutches of private moneylenders and finance companies.

"The requirement of a CIBIL score, income certificate and PAN card for securing gold loans is devastating for farmers who need emergency funds for health, education or weddings," Shanthakumar said.

He said the previous system allowed farmers to renew gold loans by paying only the interest, whereas the new rules mandate the full repayment of principal and interest before a fresh loan can be sanctioned.

Key demands

Scrap SARFAESI Act for farmers: The leaders demanded an end to the practice of seizing and auctioning agricultural land and homes under the SARFAESI Act, when farmers default on loans.

Gold loan valuation: The delegation criticised banks for linking gold loan amounts to land acreage (Rs 1 lakh per acre) rather than the actual market value of the gold pledged.

Educational loans: They insisted that CIBIL scores should not be a criteria for providing educational loans to children of farmers and labourers.

Abuse by pvt finance firms: The federation highlighted how private firms trap farmers by extending loan tenures (from 15 to 25 years) without proper consent, leading to long-term debt traps.

Govt alters land grant policy...

Semiconductor, From Page 1

The government has already spent Rs 433.72 crore on trunk infrastructure at the BSBP. The KSIIDC has projected upcoming expenditures of Rs 780 crore to provide water supply infrastructure. The allotment of land to Applied Materials, at the rate of Rs 1,288 per sq ft of FSI, must cover these costs pro rata, the finance department has said.

Semiconductor Park

The BSBP will now be developed as a Semiconductor Park. The land allotment policy followed in the case of Applied Materials will be used for the remaining 267 acres.

Spread over 407 acres, the BSBP was originally planned as an international convention centre. It was decided to monetise 63 land parcels on lease basis. In the first phase, 11 plots were offered and tenders invited in December 2024. No bids were received. While authorities were figuring out the next steps, Applied Materials came with its proposal. The government initiated discussions on the project in February this year.

BENGAL STAND-OFF: RN Ravi clears way for BJP government; swearing-in ceremony tomorrow

Guv dissolves Assembly as Mamata refuses to resign

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

West Bengal Governor RN Ravi on Thursday dissolved the Assembly, paving the way for the new BJP government to take office. The move followed Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee's refusal to resign despite the BJP's election victory.

In a press release, the Lok Bhavan in Kolkata stated that the governor had exercised his powers under Sub-clause (b) of Clause (2) of Article 174 of the Constitution to issue an order dissolving the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, which has come into effect.

The governor issued the order a day after the state's Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Agarwal submitted to him the notification regarding the constitution of the new Assembly.

The newly elected BJP legislators (207) will meet in Kolkata on Friday to elect the legislative party leader, who will be sworn in as chief minister at a public rally at Brigade Parade Ground on Saturday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and chief ministers of BJP-ruled states will attend the ceremony.

The BJP registered a landslide victory over the TMC in the just-concluded elections. But Mamata said she would not resign, claiming the poll outcome was the result of a conspiracy by the saffron party and the Election Commission, not a mandate of the people. She alleged that the BJP had "looted" at least 100 seats from the TMC with the EC's help.

She added that she would not step down voluntarily and would rather be dismissed from office by the governor.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav speaks to the media after a meeting with Trinamool supremo Mamata Banerjee and party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, in Kolkata on Thursday. Akhilesh expressed solidarity with the party's leadership following the TMC's defeat in the West Bengal Assembly polls. PTI

Preparations underway for the swearing-in ceremony of West Bengal's first BJP government, at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata, on Thursday. The ceremony is likely to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and several senior BJP leaders. PTI

Abhishek faces TMC leaders' ire over poll debacle

KOLKATA, DHNS: Poor candidate selection and the corporate culture within the Trinamool Congress are among the reasons that led to the party's poll debacle, said several TMC leaders.

Blaming Abhishek Banerjee, the second in command in the party, TMC stalwart Asit Majumdar said "capable leaders" were sidelined to make space for inexperienced ones.

"Some people had become so arrogant that they believed only they mattered. That led to our defeat," said Majumdar, who was elected from Chunchura in Hooghly in 2011, 2016 and 2021, but denied the ticket this time. TMC's Debangshu Bhattacharya lost to BJP's Subir Nag in Chunchura.

Majumdar also criticised I-PAC, saying there was no need for a consultancy firm.

Another senior leader, Manoj Tiwary, alleged that he was denied ticket from Shibpur in Howrah because he failed to meet the party's demand of Rs 5 crore. Tiwary was a minister of state in the Mamata government. He won the seat in 2021.

"TMC deserved this defeat. I congratulate BJP for its victory," he said, alleging that he was not allowed to meet the TMC top leadership to discuss development projects.

Another leader who unleashed his wrath at Abhishek was Krishnendu Narayan Chowdhury, the chairman of English Bazar Municipality in Malda and a former minister of the TMC government.

"The person who destroyed TMC bit by bit is Abhishek Banerjee," said Chowdhury, and alleged that Mamata turned a blind eye to his mistakes.

The TMC's tally came down from 215 in 2021 to just 80 this time, whereas the BJP's score went up from 77 to 207.

Former TMC student leader Kohinoor Mazumdar accused the party's national general secretary of centralising power, sidelining grassroots workers and turning the party into a "corporate organisation".

Adhikari links aide's murder to election win

KOLKATA, DHNS: West Bengal BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari said on Thursday that his aide Chandranath Rath would not have been killed had he not defeated Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee in Bhabanipur in the just-concluded elections.

Rath was the fourth person associated with Adhikari to have died under mysterious circumstances. Earlier, his personal assistant Pradip Jha, bodyguard Subhabrata Chakraborty and counting agent Pulak Lahiri had met unnatural deaths in 2013, 2018, and 2021, respectively.

Suvendu Adhikari

State BJP chief Samik Bhattacharya claimed it was a political murder driven by vengeance. "We can reply in the language of the TMC, but we won't," he said.

Adhikari urged BJP workers to exercise restraint.

After Rath was murdered late on Wednesday, the TMC condemned the incident and demanded a CBI investigation.

Rath, 42, was shot dead by assailants in North 24 Parganas district. The incident occurred two days after the Assembly election results were declared, in which the BJP registered a landslide victory, trouncing the TMC. Adhikari defeated Mamata in Bhabanipur. He is among the frontrunners for the office of chief minister in the new BJP government, set to take charge on Saturday.

Rath, who had earlier served in the Indian Air Force and later worked in the corporate sector, was a close aide of Adhikari since his days in the TMC.

"This is a very personal loss to me. He might not have been killed had he not been my personal assistant and had I not won from Bhabanipur," Adhikari said.

In 2013, when Adhikari was still a TMC MP, his personal assistant Pradip Jha was found unconscious on Strand Road in Kolkata and later declared dead.

In 2018, his bodyguard of nine years, Subhabrata Chakraborty of the State Armed Police, was discovered with a fatal bullet wound near Adhikari's residence in Kanthi.

After Adhikari joined the BJP and contested against Mamata in Nandigram in 2021, his counting agent Pulak Lahiri also died under mysterious circumstances.

Assam BJP plans grand swearing-in event on May 12

GUWAHATI, DHNS: After being elected for a third straight term with a record number of seats in the Assam Assembly elections, the BJP is gearing up to make the swearing-in ceremony of the new government a "spectacular event" on May 12, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the chief guest.

Dilip Saikia, president of the Assam unit of the BJP, said on Thursday that more than one lakh people from across the state are likely to converge at the College of Veterinary Science playground in Khanapara here to witness the event at 11 am.

Apart from Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president Nitin Nabin, CMs and Deputy Chief Ministers of several NDA-ruled states, senior leaders of the party and its allies, along with several prominent personalities from across Assam, will attend the event, Saikia said.

"People have given us a historic mandate with 102 seats out of 126, of which the BJP alone won 82. The new government will take all possible steps to fulfil the promises made in our manifesto and realise the objective of a developed and secure Assam. The new government will begin its journey by taking blessings from the people. Today, we finalised the planning to make the swearing-in a spectacular event," Saikia told reporters.

EC seizures of illegal inducements up 40% from 2021

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Cash, liquor and freebies, among others, worth Rs 1,444.96 crore were seized between February 26 and May 6 in four states and one Union Territory that went to Assembly elections, a rise of 40.14% compared to 2021 when seizures amounted to Rs 1029.93 crore.

Among the states, the highest seizure was recorded from Tamil Nadu, where Rs 662.28 crore worth of cash and articles were seized, followed by West Bengal, which recorded Rs 573.41 crore seizure. Assam saw seizures worth Rs 117.24 crore, while it was Rs 80.67 crore in Kerala and Rs 9.72 crore in Puducherry.

West Bengal saw the highest increase in the seizures at 68.92%, while it was 48.4% in Tamil Nadu compared to figures during the 2021 polls.

With the Model Code of Conduct ceased to be in operation in these states and UTs except in the Falta constituency in West Bengal, the statistics showed that cash worth Rs 154.89 crore was seized in 39 days after the Election Seizure Management System was activated.

When it comes to liquor, 69.88 lakh litres worth Rs 183.33 crore were seized while drug seizure accounted for Rs 337.88 crore.

Left warns DMK of wipeout if it aligns with AIADMK

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

TN DEADLOCK

- CPM, CPI criticise Guv Arlekar for not inviting Vijay to form govt
- CPM, CPI, VCK likely to take joint decision
- Left parties feel mandate is in favour of TVK, oppose moves that will give BJP upper hand

Amid speculations that the DMK and its arch-rival AIADMK are showing readiness to form a government to prevent actor-politician C Joseph Vijay from occupying the CM chair in Tamil Nadu, the Left parties warned that such a move would wipe out the Dravidian majors in the next election.

The Left parties, especially the CPM, are viewing reported attempts by the two regional parties to form a government as "unacceptable", with leaders insisting it would amount to a "manipulation" of the verdict in favour of TVK.

With the Governor refusing to invite Vijay to form a government as he is yet to cobble together a majority, all eyes are now on the CPM, CPI and the VCK on whether they will officially support the TVK and help break the stalemate.

CPM general secretary MA Baby and CPI general secretary D Raja met in New Delhi on Thursday to discuss the developments. Even while stopping short of announcing support, both Baby and Raja criticised Arlekar for not inviting Vijay to form the government. They maintained that the mandate was clearly in favour of the TVK, even though it had fallen short of a majority on its own.

The CPM, CPI and the VCK are coordinating with one another and are expected to take a joint decision. Sources said the CPM had made it clear that it would not support any move by the DMK and the AIADMK to form a government, arguing that such an arrangement would give the BJP an upper hand.

The Left parties believe Vijay has made it clear that the TVK opposes both the BJP and the DMK, and that they would have to review their alliance with the DMK if it proceeded with any plans to prevent Vijay from forming a government. When asked why the party was hesitant to officially announce support to the TVK, a senior Left leader said: "What does it mean when we say that the Governor should invite Vijay to form a government?"

DMK asks Stalin to take 'urgent decisions' to ensure stable govt in TN

DMK chief maintains suspense, hints at 'some decisions' due to current situation

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Amid talk of the two Dravidian majors coming together to "secure their future", the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) on Thursday authorised its president, M K Stalin, to take "urgent decisions" aligned with the party's primary objective of ensuring a "stable" government in the state.

Stalin, meanwhile, maintained suspense in his address at a DMK Legislature Party meeting, saying that while the party wanted to function as an "effective Opposition", the current situation might force him to take "some decisions" after consulting senior leaders. He told the attendees that they should accept those decisions.

Stalin also told party MLAs to stay put in Chennai until May 10. While the resolution and Stalin's speech lent credence to the speculation that the DMK and the AIADMK might join forces to form the next government and keep the TVK out, party spokesperson T K S Elangovan ruled out such an alliance.

DMK president MK Stalin leaves after attending a meeting of the party's newly elected MLAs in Chennai on Thursday. PTI

"Our leader has refused such an arrangement," he told reporters, only to add: "We will accept any decision taken by him (Stalin)."

In another development, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami travelled to Puducherry, where 28 party MLAs are lodged in a luxurious resort amid speculation that they were willing to support the TVK. Palaniswami is likely to return to Chennai on Friday, with party sources maintaining that the move was necessary to keep its legislators from the TVK, which is short of a majority in the Assembly.

The speculation is that the AIADMK, with its 47 MLAs, will form the government with outside support from the DMK and other smaller parties. However, the numbers don't add up as the AIADMK, DMK, PMK, AMMK, IUML, and the DMDK have only 114 MLAs.

They can form the government only if the CPI, CPM, and the VCK — whose collective strength is six — extend their support, but they are unlikely to back a coalition of the DMK and the AIADMK.

The only possible situation as of now is the CPI, CPM, and the VCK supporting the TVK, which currently has the support of 113 MLAs. With the six these parties bring, the strength will go up to 119, which is one above the halfway mark.

Sources indicated that Stalin broached this topic with the CPI, CPM, and the VCK, but told them they could make their own decision on supporting the TVK.

'Backstabbing': DMK slams Congress

The DMK on Thursday slammed the Congress for exiting the party-led alliance and accused it of "backstabbing" the DMK and betraying Tamil Nadu, despite party chief M K Stalin displaying maturity and conducting in a responsible manner.

Condemning the Congress for severing ties with the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance and entering into a post-poll pact with the fledgling TVK, the DMK said the grand old party's decision to walk out of the alliance was strongly condemnable.

"The Congress has done to us in Tamil Nadu what the BJP does in many states," a resolution passed at the DMK MLAs-designate meeting said, flaying the Congress' "opportunistic political tilt".

"The Congress was allotted one Rajya Sabha seat and 28 assembly seats in our alliance. It shifted to an alternative party within three days," the resolution said.

AIADMK's Shanmugam resigns from Rajya Sabha

NEW DELHI/CHENNAI, PTI: AIADMK leader C Ve Shanmugam resigned from his Rajya Sabha seat, days after he was elected from the Mailam constituency in the April 23 Tamil Nadu assembly polls.

The former minister confirmed the move in the national capital on Thursday, shortly after submitting his resignation to the competent authority.

C Ve Shanmugam

"I have sent my resignation. I have resigned from my position. Thank you," he told reporters, declining to elaborate.

The resignation has triggered intense speculation regarding shifting alliances in Tamil Nadu's political landscape.

Amid rumours of a potential tie-up between the AIADMK and the Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), or even a realignment with the DMK, Shanmugam maintained a strict distance from the conjectures.

Responding to queries about a "new government" or specific alliance speculations, he said, "I can't say anything. I don't know anything."

Shanmugam is an influential leader from Vanniyar-dominated Villupuram.

Kerala CM race campaigns spill onto streets

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Congress leader V D Satheesan seems to be edging ahead in the race for the Kerala chief minister's post, with many Congress MLA-designates as well as some key coalition partners reportedly urging the All India Congress Committee (AICC) observers to give due consideration to the mass support to him as well as to select the CM from only the members elected to the Assembly.

AICC observers Mukul Wasnik and Ajay Maken called on the Congress MLA-designates and coalition party leaders in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday, collecting their opinions.

They preferred to be tight-lipped on the details of the discussions and the choices of the elected members. A final decision is expected by Sunday.

Congress leader V D Satheesan being greeted by supporters upon his arrival to attend the meeting to decide on the chief ministerial candidate in Kerala, in Thiruvananthapuram. PTI

The Congress Legislature Party unanimously passed a resolution authorising party president Mallikarjun Kharge to decide its leader.

While AICC general secretary K C Venugopal's camp claims that it has the support of the majority of the Congress MLA-designates, Satheesan's camp and senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala's supporters are also making similar claims.

The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) — the second-largest constituent in the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) — has already openly backed Satheesan for leading the coalition to a thumping victory. Meanwhile, even the Kerala Congress (Joseph) maintains that the CM should be an elected MLA.

This could become a disadvantage for Venugopal, as he has not been elected to the Assembly. Moreover, in case Venugopal — a Lok Sabha member — chosen to be the CM, the state will have to go for two by-polls. This could invite the wrath of people, Satheesan's supporters have pointed out. Meanwhile, sources close to Chennithala have said that in case Venugopal loses the race, he may back Chennithala.

Support for Satheesan

Congress workers on Thursday took to the streets of Kochi to show support for Satheesan. They raised slogans projecting Satheesan as the next CM for having led the UDF to victory.

Nitish Kumar's son among 32 ministers inducted into new Bihar Cabinet

ABHAY KUMAR,
PATNA

Nishant Kumar, son of former Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, was among the 32 ministers who were sworn in to the Samrat Choudhary Cabinet here on Thursday.

Nishant, who is an engineering graduate, was inducted into the JD(U) on March 8 after Nitish Kumar announced that he would quit as Bihar CM to become a Rajya Sabha member.

A reluctant politician, who is neither a member of the Legislative Assembly nor the Legislative Council, Nishant had, last month, refused to be sworn in as a minister, saying he would like to work as an ordinary party worker.

JD(U) leader Nishant Kumar seeks blessings from his father Nitish Kumar ahead of taking oath as minister in Patna on Thursday. PTI

However, he was persuaded by the JD(U) to join the ministry.

BJP inducted 15 ministers from the saffron camp, while 13 from the JD (U). Two ministers from the LJP and one each from Jitan Ram Manjhi's HAM and Upendra Kushwaha's RLM (Rashtriya Lok Morcha) also took oath.

Three ex-CMs' sons

Besides Nishant, Nitish Mishra, son of former Bihar Chief Minister Dr Jagannath Mishra, was also inducted as a minister while BJP's prominent face Mangal Pandey was given the boot.

Nitish Mishra was Industry Minister in the previous regime till November 2025. Another former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi's son Santosh Suman was inducted as a minister.

With Thursday's induction of 32 ministers, the strength of the present council of ministers in Bihar has reached 35.

As per the constitutional provisions, Bihar can have a maximum of 36 ministers in the 243-member Assembly.

Bandi Sanjay's supporters vandalise BRS MLA's office

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Accusations and counter-accusations of drug abuse turned ugly on Thursday when BJP workers vandalised the camp office of BRS MLA Gangula Kamalakar in Karimnagar.

Supporters of Union Minister Bandi Sanjay went on the rampage when BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy was addressing the media in the office. In retaliation, BRS cadres attempted to march to Bandi Sanjay's office in Karimnagar, but were intercepted by police on the way.

Earlier, Sanjay had demanded that BRS working president KT Rama Rao go for a drug test. To this, Kaushik had alleged that Sanjay's hair loss was a side effect of consuming drug-laced tobacco products.

Thursday's vandalism was a reaction to this remark.

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Hate speech and the limits of law

In its observation that India's existing legal frameworks are adequate to handle hate speech, the Supreme Court may have taken a credible position, but it still does not offer solutions to the problem. The Court noted that it is not the absence of laws but the failure in their implementation that has aggravated the issue and held the executive responsible for the gaps in enforcement. While hearing multiple petitions seeking separate laws to adjudicate hate speech and related crimes, it asserted that hate speech is "fundamentally antithetical" to the constitutional value of fraternity. Pointing out relevant provisions in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) that cover hate crimes, the Court said they were designed for sufficient remedial action, including investigation and prosecution.

There is no denying that poor enforcement of the law has further enabled a culture of hate in public discourse. The Court reminded public figures of their duty to exercise restraint in their speech. It reiterated its earlier judgments, which directed police officers to register FIRs immediately on receiving complaints about hate speech. It has been stated that prior sanction is not necessary for a magistrate to take cognisance of a complaint on the matter. The Court said the "constitutional role of the judiciary is primarily to interpret and apply the law, and not to legislate"; therefore, attempts by the courts to prescribe statutory schemes or frame provisions akin to legislation would amount to judicial law-making. While all this is true, it is notable that the Court's past orders have not helped curb hate speech. Not many cases have been filed in connection with incidents of hate speech. Even when cases were registered—some involving brazenly divisive utterances—they resulted in acquittal.

Weak policing and inconsistent court action have allowed divisive rhetoric to continue unchecked

While the Court has stated its position, some issues stand out. It has directed the states to register cases against those indulging in hate speech, but the directive is largely ignored. Should the Court not take action on this? The inadequacy is systemic: when the offenders are people in positions of power, the complaints do not go anywhere. Though courts have stated what constitutes hate speech, there is still a lack of clarity. A legal definition may not be possible, given that at times, speech is defined by context. This leaves governments and the police with considerable latitude. Very often, courts also fail to see hate in speech, even when it is clear and unmistakable.

Reform in KPSC cannot wait

The Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) has, over the decades, become less a gateway to public service and more a byword for institutional failure, symbolising delay and opacity. The formation of a House committee under R V Deshpande to recommend structural reforms is, therefore, a step in the right direction, provided it does not become another exercise in political optics. The KPSC's record over the last two decades is dispiriting: selection of politically connected candidates, scrapping of the KAS preliminary examination after a sting operation revealed demands for bribes, mass copying and tampering of answer scripts, and rampant translation errors in the examination question papers. Describing the Commission as a "fountain of corruption", former minister S Suresh Kumar has pointed out that KPSC examinations were held only thrice in eleven years. When a recruitment body meant to be the backbone of the civil services conducts examinations only three times in over a decade, the anxiety among the aspirants is precisely the desperation that corruption feeds on.

The tragedy is that a blueprint for reform has existed since 2013. A committee, chaired by former Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) chairman P C Hota, recommended a fixed annual recruitment calendar, abolition of interviews for Group C posts, reduced interview weightage for KAS, robust evaluation of descriptive papers to eliminate subjectivity, and a search-cum-selection committee to insulate appointments from political patronage. More than a decade later, most of these recommendations are gathering dust, as legislators from both sides of the aisle noted during the recent Assembly session. The Deshpande committee must not simply rediscover Hota's recommendations; it must deliver an implementation roadmap with binding deadlines. The path forward lies in adopting the Karnataka Examination Authority's technology-driven processes, introducing a UPSC-style annual calendar, reducing the Commission's strength to eight members, and creating regulatory safeguards to insulate recruitment from corruption, nepotism, and inefficiency.

Merit-based appointments must be at the centre of efforts to restore public trust in the institution

But these measures will remain insufficient without one additional change that no committee can substitute for – the appointment of people of unimpeachable integrity, administrative competence, and public credibility to lead the Commission. The KPSC cannot continue as a dumping ground for political loyalists. Its chairman and members must be chosen through transparent, merit-based selection. The Deshpande panel must recognise that what ails the KPSC is not merely individual corruption but structural decay. Karnataka's citizens deserve a KPSC that is genuinely rebuilt from within – because without that, no overhaul, however well-intentioned, will restore public confidence in the institution.

BIG CHURN

SIR redraws Bengal's margins of power

Voter deletions appear to have influenced close contests in constituencies with substantial minority populations

SABIR AHAMED, ASHIN CHAKRABORTY AND SOUPTIK HALDER

The dramatic electoral debacle of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) in the West Bengal Assembly elections may be attributed to a wide range of factors, including strong anti-incumbency, allegations of large-scale corruption, and the fragmentation of minority votes. Yet, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s success appears to have been shaped also by the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The Election Commission of India (ECI)'s exercise saw one of India's most extensive voter exclusions, which arguably played a decisive role in determining Mamata Banerjee's electoral fate.

The BJP secured 292,24,804 votes against the TMC's 260,13,377: a margin of 32,11,427 votes that translated into a 127-seat lead. This is significantly lower than the 91 lakh voters deleted during the revision, and even lower than the 66 lakh voters removed for reasons other than death.

Findings from an analysis of data from 293 Assembly seats are striking: in 161 of the 293 seats (54.8%), the number of voters deleted during the three SIR phases (Absent, Shifted or Dead/Duplicate [ASDD]; the final list of deletions on February 28; and the supplementary list deletions) exceeded the respective victory margin. This figure includes all categories of deletions, including deaths. Even after excluding deaths, the pattern remains significant. In 124 seats (42.2%), non-death deletions exceeded the winning margin.

Major concerns arise from the supplementary list deletions, which involved voters placed "under adjudication" and later reviewed by judicial officers. In 50 seats (17%), these deletions alone were greater than the margin of victory. The BJP won 207 seats in the election, while the TMC secured 80. Given the BJP's much larger overall tally, it appears more frequently in the list of constituencies where voter deletions exceeded the victory margin.

The ECI undertook the SIR exercise in November 2025. In the first phase, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) carried out door-to-door voter verification. The initial list identified and excluded absent, shifted, dead, or duplicate voters from the draft rolls. The total number of such deletions stood at around 58 lakh. Another category included "unmapped voters"—individuals whose names could not be linked to the 2002 electoral rolls and were, therefore, marked for possible removal.

The preliminary data revealed an important pattern. Districts with higher Muslim populations, such as Murshidabad and Malda, showed relatively better levels of mapping. In contrast, a high incidence of unmapped voters was found among Matua communities in North 24 Parganas and Nadia.

In the second stage, the ECI introduced the category of "logical discrepancy", using untested AI tools, under which voters were flagged for issues such as minor spelling variations or inconsistencies in the age gaps between

parents and children. Some cases were placed "under adjudication" for hearings before Supreme Court-appointed judicial officers. After review, supplementary lists restored a small number of voters.

Among the 161 seats where total deletions exceeded the margin of victory, the BJP won 105, and the TMC won 53. Of the 124 seats where non-death deletions exceeded the margin, the BJP won 83 seats and the TMC, 38. In the 50 constituencies where supplementary list deletions alone were greater than the victory margins, the BJP and the TMC won 26 and 21 seats, respectively.

Of the BJP's 207 seats, 105 had total deletions exceeding the victory margin. For the TMC, this figure was 53. TMC's support is concentrated in Uttar Dinajpur, Malda, and Murshidabad – districts with large Muslim populations and high numbers of SIR-related deletions. The pattern persists after excluding deaths. Around 40.1% of the BJP's seats (83 of 207) fell into the non-death deletion category, compared to 47.5% of the TMC's seats (38 of 80).

The gap widens in the supplementary-list category. Only 26 of the BJP's 207 victories (12.6%) were impacted by deletions exceeding the margin. For the TMC, the figure was 21 out of 80 seats (26.2%). In other words, more than one in four TMC victories fell into this category, compared to roughly one in eight BJP victories.

Varied patterns

The answer lies partly in demographic composition. The 207 seats the BJP won had an average minority population share of 15.1%, with a median of 12%. In contrast, TMC's 80 seats had an average minority share of 41.2%, with a median of 36.9%. The nearly 26-point gap reflects the sharp demographic polarisation of the election.

Within the BJP's seats, the minority share rose significantly in constituencies where deletions exceeded the margin. In the 83 BJP seats where non-death deletions were greater than the victory margin, the average minority population increased to 18.9%. In the 26 BJP seats where supplementary list deletions alone exceeded the margin, the average minority share rose further to 28%.

This suggests that the BJP's victories were concentrated in constituencies with relatively higher minority populations: constituencies not traditionally considered the party's strongholds. Of the 19 seats where the minority population was over 30%, the BJP won 18, even though the total non-BJP votes were higher than the BJP votes.

For the TMC, the pattern is somewhat different. In the 38 seats where non-death deletions exceeded the victory margin, the average minority share was 36%. In the 21 seats flagged under the supplementary-list category, the average minority share stood at 38.9%. Both figures are lower than the TMC's overall average of 41.2%. This indicates that TMC's strongest minority-dominated constituencies continued to produce sufficiently large victory margins to absorb the impact of deletions.

The real vulnerability appeared in constituencies with moderate minority populations, especially where minorities formed 20-40% of the population. In these seats, electoral contests were more competitive, and voter deletions could have significantly affected outcomes. For example, in Nandigram, Muslims constitute about 25% of the population, but deleted voters accounted for 94.5%. Similarly, in Bhabanipur, Muslims make up around 20% of the population; the deletions stood at 40.1%.

Both parties' victories were concentrated in a similar electoral zone – constituencies with moderate minority populations, where relatively small changes in electoral rolls could have significant political consequences.

(The writers are associated with Sabar Institute, a research and advocacy group)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

The futility of folding clothes

Some doors are best left closed. For your sanity. And your laundry

ARUNA PARANDHAMA

Let me begin with an announcement in public interest: the clean, Pinterest-perfect home is a myth. A carefully curated lie. A cruel illusion perpetuated by people who apparently have no jobs or family. Now, I live in a perfectly conventional home. By that I mean one in which a male Homo sapien cohabits with a female Homo sapien. It is a space where evolution appears to have paused just before the 'neat and tidy' milestone. Every time I insist that our freshly washed clothes be folded, my extremely capable partner responds with what he believes are the most logical arguments in the history of domestic negotiations.

Negotiation Exhibit 1: Why fold clothes when we're going to wear them anyway?

That's laziness masked in logic. Clothes must live freely too, travelling from the armrest of the sofa to the floor. This is why our grandmothers hid money in different corners of the house, only for us to stumble on it years later. Except in our case, we stumble on a lone sock from 2020, missing its pair.

Negotiation Exhibit 2: A home should not feel like a hotel. It should have some soul, some signs of life. Folding clothes makes it mechanical... dispassionate even.

Touché! I didn't know that my home was auditioning for a role in a post-apocalyptic film called Wrinkle Wars: The Fabric Strikes Back.

These arguments dressed like negotiations affect me, much like a mutating virus that grows exponentially stronger by the day. So, I gather all the unfolded clothes and perform a glorious slam dunk – right into my partner's cupboard.

To this he responds, not with shame or apology but with the philosophical rigour of the decade: "Even if we fold them now, this is a vicious cycle!"

But poetic justice exists. One day, the cupboard – God bless its overloaded hinges – decided enough is enough. I opened it, and a veritable clothes avalanche crashed down on me with the force of Newton's Third Law. For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction, and in my case, it was cotton-based and deeply personal. I emerged from the fabric avalanche, dishevelled but wiser. I stacked the clothes into a wobbly 'healthy-looking' pile, gently shoved them back in, and shut the cupboard door with the finality of someone who has helplessly chosen peace.

Some doors, I have learned, are best left closed. For your sanity. And your laundry.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mamata should take her fight to the court

I refer to your editorial 'Defiant Mamata signals democracy's strain' (May 7). The Trinamool Congress chief, Mamata Banerjee, has created an unprecedented situation in the wake of her party's defeat in the West Bengal Assembly elections. She should have stepped down as chief minister. But, strangely enough, she has refused to resign. Instead of this ungainly scenario, Mamata should have taken legal recourse and waged a constitutional battle against whatever wrongs and injustices may have been meted out to her, her party, and the voters—whether by the Election Commission of India or the BJP or the Union government allegedly abusing its political power to win the elections and weaken the Opposition. In keeping with democratic traditions, she should exit honourably and take her fight to the courts and the electorate.

M Basavararaj, Davanagere

Follow the process

Apropos 'Vijay's swearing-in on hold, Guv seeks numbers' (May 7), parliamentary democracy follows the convention that, in the absence of a clear majority for a single party or a pre- or post-poll alliance, the governor invites the leader of the largest single party to form the government and gives reasonable time to prove majority on the floor of the House, even though it is well known that such time may be used for horse-trading. Asking the leader of the largest single party to prove a majority even before forming the government goes against the norms of parliamentary democracy, since the majority must be tested only on the floor of the Assembly and certainly not in Lok Bhavan before the governor.

Prabhu Harle, Bengaluru

Pivot to governance

In Kerala, the Congress-led UDF's return to power with a commanding mandate of 102 seats marks a historic rejection of the outgoing LDF's overbearing leadership. However, this victory is tempered by a redrawn political map in which the BJP has secured three seats and increased its vote share, signalling tri-polar competition in future. For the UDF, the challenge now is to move from campaign mode to cohesive governance.

S Padmanabhan, Kochi

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

BJP's lies are like the layering of Soan Papdi. They put another layer of lies on top of one layer of lies.

Akhilesh Yadav, SP Chief and MP

I don't believe lies are something to stand on. I believe lies are something to build on.

Philip Roth

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

OPEC rift fuels autonomy debate

The UAE has prioritised national interests over collective discipline. Can the cartel adapt to the times?

ANAND KUMAR

The decision by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to step away from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) marks more than a routine policy shift; it signals a deeper strain in the logic that has long governed global oil politics. For decades, OPEC stood as a rare example of sustained cooperation among resource-rich states, allowing them to collectively influence prices and project geopolitical power. The UAE's move suggests that this model – once seen as indispensable – is increasingly being questioned from within, for both economic and strategic reasons.

The decision reflects a desire for greater control. The UAE has invested heavily in expanding its oil production capacity, positioning itself as an efficient and technologically advanced producer. Yet the quota system OPEC follows requires it to limit output to support global prices. While such discipline once ensured stable revenues, it is now viewed as a constraint. For a country seeking to maximise returns from its oil resources while preparing for a post-oil future, restricting production is no longer an attractive trade-off.

There is a clear irony here. The UAE aims to diversify its economy into sectors such as finance, tourism, and technology, but that transition depends heavily on capital generated from oil. Therefore, producing more oil now is necessary, not contradictory. OPEC's restrictions clash with this broader economic strategy, turning what was once a stabilising mechanism into an obstacle to national development.

Geopolitics also shapes the timing of this decision. The Gulf region has faced heightened tensions, particularly involving Iran and the disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz. These pressures have underscored the risks of relying on a consensus-driven organisation where responses can be slow and diluted. In a volatile environment, agility matters more than coordination—something OPEC's structure does not easily provide.

Frictions within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have added to this shift. The UAE has adopted a more assertive regional posture and expressed frustration with what it sees as limited collective action. Breaking away from a framework often perceived as dominated by Saudi Arabia thus carries both economic and political significance.

For Saudi Arabia, the implications are considerable. As OPEC's de facto leader, its influence depends not only on its own production capacity but also on the alignment of other members. The UAE's exit weakens that alignment, removing a key partner with substantial capacity. It also exposes underlying dissatisfaction, raising questions about the organisation's cohesion.

This creates a strategic dilemma for Saudi Arabia. Its economic transformation plans rely on sustained oil revenues, which in turn require controlled supply. If fewer countries participate in coordinated cuts, the burden shifts disproportionately onto Saudi Arabia. It must either sacrifice market share to support prices or increase output and risk price declines. Neither of these options is particularly attractive.

The UAE's departure also highlights a longstanding issue within OPEC: uneven compliance. Several members have historically exceeded their quotas, undermining trust in the system. For countries that adhere to the rules, this breeds resentment and weakens incentives to remain. In this sense, the UAE's move reflects a broader pattern of dissatisfaction rather than an isolated decision.

The balance shifts

Looking ahead, the key question is whether this marks the beginning of a wider unravelling. Other producers with expanding capacity or shifting priorities may reassess the value of membership. If more states choose autonomy over coordination, OPEC's influence could erode, giving way to a more fragmented and competitive market.

In the short term, oil prices may not be significantly affected, as geopolitical disruptions and existing supply constraints continue to shape the market. However, over the longer term, the implications are more substantial. Increased production outside OPEC constraints could put downward pressure on prices, while the weakening of coordination may lead to greater volatility.

For oil-importing countries, this presents opportunities and risks. Lower prices could ease inflation and improve trade balances, but increased volatility complicates economic planning and energy security.

The UAE's move reflects a broader shift in global energy politics. The traditional model of cartel-based cooperation is being challenged by technological change, evolving demand, and geopolitical fragmentation. States are increasingly prioritising flexibility and national interest over collective discipline.

OPEC is unlikely to become irrelevant overnight, but its authority is no longer unquestioned. Its future will depend on its ability to adapt. The UAE's exit is not just a departure; it is a signal that the balance between cooperation and competition in the global oil market is being fundamentally redefined.

(The writer is an associate fellow at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses)

Somnath and Bharat's unconquerable spirit

NARENDRA MODI

At the start of 2026, I had gone to Somnath for the Somnath Swabhiman Parv, marking a thousand years since the first attack on the Somnath Temple. Now, I will be back in Somnath on May 11 to mark 75 years since the inauguration of the restored temple by the then President of India, Dr Rajendra Prasad. In less than half a year, it is a privilege to be attending two important milestones relating to Somnath and its journey from ruin to renewal, or what we describe as 'from Vidhvans to Srijan'.

Somnath gives us a civilisational message. The vast sea before it evokes timelessness. The waves tell us that no matter how fierce the storms are, one can always rise again with dignity and strength. The waves return to the shore, as though reminding every generation that the spirit of the people can never be subdued for long.

Our ancient scriptures say, *Prabhasam cha parikramya prithivikramsambhavam.* It means a *pradakshina* of the divine Prabhasa (Somnath) is equal to a *pradakshina* of the whole earth. While people come here to pray, they also experience the remarkable continuity of a civilisation whose flame could never be extinguished. Empires rose and fell; tides changed; history moved through conquest and upheaval, yet Somnath continued to endure in our consciousness.

It is time to remember the countless greats who stood firm in the face of tyranny. There were Lakulisha and Soma Sarman, who transformed Prabhasa into a great centre of philosophy. Chakravarti Maharaja Dharasena IV of Vallabhi built the second temple there centuries ago. Bhima Deva, Jayapala and Anandapala will be remembered for defending civilisational honour against invasions. Raja Bhoja, too, is said to have helped with the reconstruction. Karna Deva and Siddharaja Jayasimha played a vital role in restoring Gujarat's political and cultural strength. Bhava Brihaspati, Kumarapala Solanki and the Pashupata Acharyas rebuilt and sustained the shrine as a centre of worship and learning. Vishaladeva Vaghela and Tripurantaka protected its intellectual and spiritual traditions. Mahipaladeva and Ra Khangar were instrumental in reviving worship after destruction. Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar, whose 300th birth centenary is being marked, ensured the continuity of devotion in the most difficult of times. The Gaekwads of Baroda safeguarded pilgrims' rights. And the sacrifice and courage of personalities like Veer Hamirji Gohil and Veer Vegdaji Bhil have become a part of Somnath's living memory.

In the 1940s, when the spirit of freedom swept across India and the foundations of a new republic were being laid, one thing continued to trouble Sardar Patel deeply—the condition of Somnath. On November 13, 1947, during Diwali, he stood next to the dilapidated ruins of the temple with seawater in his hands and said, 'On this auspicious day of the (Gujarati) New Year, we have decided that Somnath should be reconstructed. You, people of Saurashtra, should do your best. This is a holy task in which all should participate.' On his one clarion call, not only the people of Gujarat but also the people of the whole of India responded enthusiastically.

Unfortunately, Sardar Patel did not witness the fulfilment of the dream he had so passionately championed. Before the restored Somnath Temple could open its doors to devotees, he had departed from this world. His vision was championed by K M Munshi, ably supported by the Jamsaheb of Nawanagar. In 1951, when the temple was complete, it was decided to invite the President of India, Dr Rajendra Prasad, for the ceremony. Overcoming objections from the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajendra Prasad graced the ceremony, thus making it even more special and historic.

My mind also goes back to October 2001, when I had just taken over as chief minister of Gujarat. On October 31, 2001, also the 125th birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, the Gujarat government organised a programme to mark 50 years since the Somnath Temple opened its doors. The then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the then Home Minister L K Advani attended the programme.

During his speech on May 11, 1951, Dr Rajendra Prasad said that the Somnath Temple proclaims to the world that anything with unparalleled faith and love cannot be destroyed. He expressed hope that this temple will live in the hearts of people. He also said that the restoration of the temple was a fulfilment of Sardar Patel's dream, but taking that spirit forward, it is important that we restore prosperity to the lives of people.

This is the path we have been walking for over a decade. I consider it my good fortune that, inspired by the principle of 'Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi', from Somnath to Kashi, Kamakhya to Kedarnath, Ayodhya to Ujjain, and Trimbakeshwar to Srisailam, our team has had the opportunity to equip our spiritual centres with the latest facilities while preserving their traditional character. This, along with efforts to improve connectivity, ensures more people can visit them. It boosts the local economy, secures livelihoods and deepens the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'.

The struggles and sacrifices of those who laid down their lives to protect Somnath and those who rebuilt it time and again will never be forgotten. Countless individuals from different corners of India contributed to restoring its glory. They saw every part of Bharat as sacred, bound together by a sense of oneness that transcended geography. In a world often marked by divisions, this spirit of unity is more relevant than ever. Somnath will continue to stand tall in all its glory because the sense of unity and shared civilisational consciousness lives on in the hearts of every Indian. As a tribute to this, remembering the extraordinary courage of a thousand years, there will be special Pujas at Somnath for the next thousand days. It is gladdening to see several people donating for these Pujas as well.

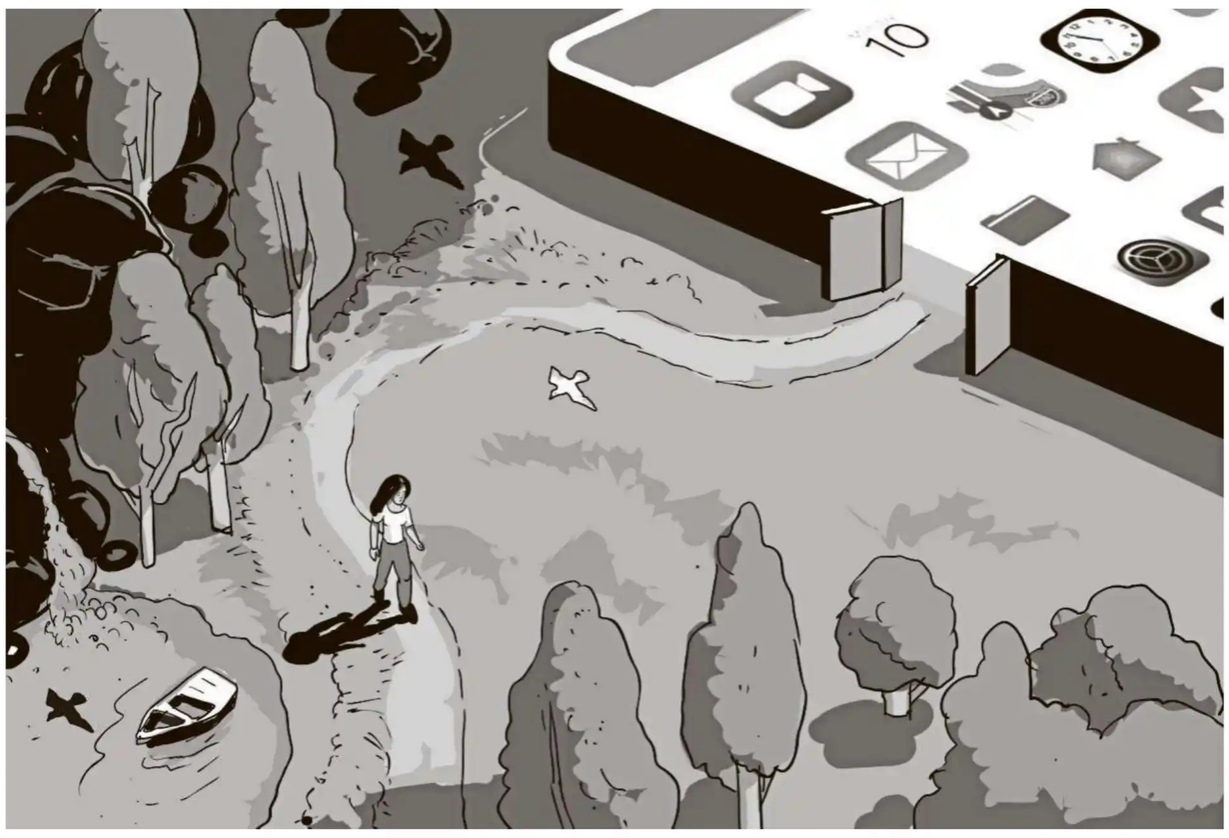
I urge my fellow Indians to travel to Somnath in this special time. When you stand on the shores of Somnath, let its ancient echoes speak to you. You will not only be overwhelmed by devotion but will also feel the strong pulse of a civilisational spirit that refuses to fade. You will experience Bharat's unconquerable spirit and understand why, despite every effort, our culture remained undefeated, and you will have the opportunity to behold the vision of eternal triumph. It will surely be unforgettable.

Jai Somnath.

(The writer is the Prime Minister of India and is the Chairman of the Shree Somnath Trust)

For three weeks, thousands of children in Europe went without social media or their smartphones, or both. This is the diary of their digital detox

VALERIYA SAFRONOVA



DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Can today's children survive without smartphones?

All children alive today were born after the advent of the smartphone and social media.How many could function without their phone or TikTok account?

That's the question that 72,000 children in five European countries recently tried to answer. They chose to limit their access to the digital world, exchanging Instagram and iPhones for paper address books and printed tickets.

It was the latest international effort to limit how the digital world encroaches on childhood. In some countries, governments are seeking mandatory social media bans. Some schools have banned phones in class, with mixed results. This project, run by independent experts in Austria, was something different: a voluntary digital detox.

For three weeks in March, some participants gave up their phones entirely. Some switched to "dumbphones"—cellphones without internet access. Some kept their smartphones but reduced daily screen time from hours to minutes. Others quit social media.

Wondering how that felt, I interviewed 14 participants in Austria aged 10 to 17, along with their parents and teachers, to construct a diary of the experiment.

The children spoke of a world transformed, one where they felt more connected to their surroundings and engaged with immediate family. Others said they felt bored and lonely, unable to contact faraway relatives.

The conversations have been lightly edited for length.

Day 1: Phones off

Moritz Voltmer, 14, gave up his phone entirely: There was this big event at school where we turned our phones off at the same time. I remember being unimpressed. Like, 21 days is going to be easy.

Özlem Koza, 11, aimed to cap her daily phone use at one hour: The first day was the hardest and the worst. I didn't want to go home, because I knew I'd want to use my phone. At home, I thought about my phone often.

Days 2-4: Acclimatising

Salome Slouk, 16, used a dumbphone instead of a smartphone: When I'm on my phone, I don't have to think. I'm just scrolling, and afterward, I can't remember what I saw. When I didn't have my phone, I couldn't stop my thoughts. They were overflowing.

Johanna Spring, 17, kept her smartphone but stopped using social media: There's a corner of the house with my cello. I picked it up and started playing. There's something fun about not having a phone and just picking stuff up and trying things out.

Days 5-7: Building connections

Niki Sumper, 16, limited his smartphone use to 10 minutes a day: I played chess with my dad and some board games with my mom and my dad. We spent the whole evening like this. Normally, I'm in my room and listening to music, playing PlayStation, but mostly being with my phone.

Johanna: If you scroll through TikToks, there are shifts in emotions all the time. You can get depressed very easily. If you don't have that at all, you're looking for connections with people. I think I listened more. When I talk with my mom, if we disagree, one of us will shut the other person down. I tried listening to what she would say. We had a much nicer connection.

Days 7-11: Thinking better

Niki: Normally, I write 10 sentences, then pause, look at my phone, then write the next paragraph. I forget what I wrote before, and sometimes I repeat the same phrases or write something that doesn't fit with the essay entirely. But this one I wrote without breaks.

Moritz: I studied for a Spanish test. Normally, when I study, I take short breaks to send some Snaps or something. But as the challenge went on, I learned to concentrate more. I knew that no one was going to call me, text me, and that gave me a little bit of a boost.

Days 12-14: Feeling lonely

Niki: The hardest part of the project was not communicating with friends. In the first days, it was OK, but in the middle, it became tough. My best friend lives close, so I asked him to manage everything so we could meet with other friends. I thought it was a bit embarrassing to go to my friend and tell him, "Call all my other friends and tell them to meet here and then."

Özlem: At home, I noticed that my mom, my brother, my dad, all of them, were on the phone all the time, and I was the only one in the house without a phone. I was really annoyed. I often told them not to do that, but they didn't listen to me.

Salome: There's so much time when I'm on WhatsApp and texting with my boyfriend. I feel like I have to text him small things, like: "How are you doing?" But [during the project] he knew I couldn't do it, so I didn't have to.

Days 16-17: Finding workarounds

Moritz: I got a dumbphone. You have these buttons, and you have to press them three times or so to get the right letter. It was very inconvenient.

Niki: I wanted to visit a good friend of mine in a different town about 30 to 40 minutes away by car. I decided to bicycle. I went to my laptop, Googled the distance and the route, and printed it. It took me around one hour and 20 minutes. I biked through tiny districts of Lower Austria that I'd never seen before. It was really nice seeing animals like weasels, squirrels, owls, horses, deer, a fox.

Salome: I went to Vienna with my mom to buy something, and after that, she stayed in Vienna, but I had to go back home. I looked on her phone and had to memorize the names of the train stops. I was kind of scared, but I got home fine.

Day 22: Phones on

Moritz: We had a big event at school to turn on our phones together. I had a great time during the challenge, and I feared I would use my phone frequently again.

Salome: Do I really want to give the dumbphone away and get a real phone again? I didn't really want to.

Johanna: I had over 70 messages on Snapchat, so I put it down immediately. I didn't want to look at it.

Niki: I checked my messages, and then I checked what I missed on Instagram and TikTok. It wasn't much.

Day 25: What they learned

Johanna: I'm trying to limit the time I'm spending on my phone overall and use it more consciously. I have a book now in my bag all the time, which I just read when I'm on public transport instead of doomscrolling.

Özlem: I really, really love my phone, but I'm using it less, one to two hours per day. I draw or study or help my mom or go outside.

Salome: I waited to change the SIM card back until Saturday morning. I just wanted to remain in that feeling of only being available when someone calls me. I still haven't opened TikTok, and I don't miss it.

The New York Times

When votes lose their voice

ANIKETAN SUVVI

'The right of election is the very essence of the constitution' (Junius). It needs little argument to hold that the heart of the parliamentary system is free and fair elections periodically held, based on adult franchise, although social and economic democracy may demand much more.'—The Supreme Court of India (*Mohinder Singh Gill and Anr vs. The Chief Election Commissioner)*

'We, the People of India', the opening lines of the Constitution, remind us that power in a democracy flows from the people's will. The Supreme Court has consistently observed that democracy forms part of the basic structure of the Constitution and that free and fair elections are the foundation of a democratic polity. Although the Constitution does not explicitly recognise the right to vote as a fundamental right, it remains closely linked to the freedoms guaranteed under Articles 14 (equality) and 19 (freedom of expression). But what happens when, years after an election is concluded, the numbers themselves come into question?

The recent developments in Karnataka's Sringeri Assembly constituency raise important concerns about democracy, constitutional morality, and the purpose of representation. For nearly three years, the constituency was represented by someone whose election result stands nullified now (a new MLA was sworn in on May 6 following the revised result). Like any other constituency, Sringeri faces infrastructural issues and environmental concerns, making effective and legitimate representation essential. When the legitimacy of its representative is under question, it not only affects governance but also people's confidence. Citizens begin to question not just the results, but the credibility of the democratic process.

While it is easy to point fingers at the candidate, electoral officials or even the system at large, the reality is more complex. Legally, until a court sets aside an election result, the sitting MLA is not acting unlawfully by continuing in office. But mere legality does not fully answer the demands of democracy, which rests as much on legitimacy as it does on procedure. If the recount changes the outcome, then for a period of time, the constituency may have been represented by someone who was not, in fact, the people's choice. This is not just a technical lapse—it traces the core of elected legitimacy.

Responsibility in such situations cannot be attributed to a single system. The electoral system must ensure accuracy, and institutions must ensure speedy resolution of disputes. Allegations of tampering and discrepancies in counting, raised by different parties, point to systemic vulnerabilities that must be addressed.

Courts are the appropriate forum for resolving electoral disputes. However, the time taken to resolve the same is crucial. Justice delayed in election cases risks diluting democracy itself, as prolonged uncertainty undermines both governance and public trust.

Even if a sitting MLA retains office until a final judicial verdict, the moral authority to govern is derived from the confidence of the people. When the confidence is broken – whether due to recount differences or protracted litigation – it affects the democratic process.

In such circumstances, transparency becomes indispensable. Institutions must clearly explain what went wrong, the processes followed, and the reasons behind their decisions; doing so reduces misinformation, and speculation while reinforcing accountability.

The judiciary, Election Commission, and administrative machinery must discharge their functions in harmony to ensure that electoral outcomes are timely and accurate. The Constitution does not explicitly prescribe strict time limits for election petitions, leaving the matter to statutory frameworks and judicial processes. However, given the importance of representation, there is a strong need for reforms.

Measures such as fast-track courts for exclusive electoral disputes, binding resolution deadlines, and greater transparency in recount procedures could help restore public confidence in the system.

In an era of AI and digital systems, the electoral processes must evolve alongside technology. It is not just about one constituency or one election. It is about the strength of democracy. The Constitution begins with 'We, the People', because it places citizens at the centre of governance. Every vote carries equal weight, and every result echoes the voices of the people. It is the democratic confidence that is tested, not just arithmetic numbers. Elections must be free and fair, timely and trusted.

(The writer is an advocate based in Bengaluru)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: MAY 1976

Penal law soon to curb idle licences, capacity

New Delhi, May 7
The Government proposes to amend the Industrial Development Act soon to provide for the revocation of licences which were not implemented in conformity with its objectives and within a year, Minister for Industry and Civil Supplies T. A. Pai announced in the Lok Sabha today. Mr. Pai said the amending Bill would also have penal provisions for the underutilisation of installed capacity as well as licences. It would also make export obligations compulsory for existing units.

25 YEARS AGO: MAY 2001

Paes-Bhupathi claim title

New Delhi, May 7 (Agencies)
India's Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi won their second title in two weeks defeating the American pair of Kevin Kim and Jim Thomas in the final of the $350,000 US clay court tournament in Houston, Texas on Sunday night. The second-seeded Indian pair sent the unseeded duo packing 7-6 (7-4), 6-2 in little more than an hour, according to information received. The Indians had defeated another unseeded pair Paul Macpherson and Grant Stafford on Saturday. This is the star Indian combination's 18th title as a pair on the Tour.

OASIS | PRAKASH F MADHWANI

Be bold in what you stand for

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, or Mahatma, epitomised the sacrifice of one's life for public service. 'Service above self' was his life's mission. His life has taught me how to lead a meaningful social life, and I have summed it up in three points--what I call the magic of the three 'I's.

- What is your *intention* to improve the society?
- How do you propose to create an *impact* in society?
- Will your endeavour *inspire* others in the society?

This is best demonstrated by this brief write-up on the M K Gandhi episode in Pretoria.

When Gandhi was forced out of the train while he was travelling from Durban to Pretoria, he had the following choices in mind that night at the station: 1) Forget about the insulting situation as a one-off case and move on with life; 2) Return to India without finishing the case he had gone for; 3) Return to India after finishing the case he had gone for; and 4) Fight for his rights, keeping in mind the similar situation faced by other Indians in South Africa.

He chose the fourth option. First, he wrote to the railway authorities about the difficulties faced by Indians, and then he got the other Indians in Pretoria together and made what is considered his first public speech. People gathered in huge numbers to listen to him, and he created the impact that shook up the system and changed the lives of several others living there. (*The Other Mohan* by his great-granddaughter Amrita Shah).

His one small move on that day, motivated by an Intention to be of service to society, created an Impact that the world remembers to this day, and his life became an Inspiration for others to emulate.

In our daily life, we too are faced with such situations; the choice we make shapes our future; and the bottom line of this endeavour is how bold and self-motivated we are to challenge the situation. We are always doubting our abilities and do not have the courage to be a lone voice, fearing that it may or may not be heard.

Learn to stand for a cause; do not doubt your abilities and capabilities; and do not see if you have followers, because when Intention creates Impact, then it becomes an Inspiration. The secret of such a life is to *be bold* in what you stand for.

Questioning religious practices will break religion & civilisation: SC

'If this trend continues, there will be hundreds of pleas against different rituals'

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Supreme Court on Thursday remarked that if individuals start questioning certain religious practices or matters of religion before a constitutional court, then there will be hundreds of petitions questioning different rituals, leading to the breaking of religions and the civilisation.

The nine-judge Constitution bench is hearing petitions related to discrimination against women at religious places, including the Sabarimala temple in Kerala, and on the ambit and scope of the religious freedom practised by multiple faiths, including Dawoodi Bohras.

The bench comprises Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices B V Nagarathna, M M Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, Augustine George Masih, Prasanna B Varale, R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi.

The Central Board of Dawoodi Bohra Community filed a PIL in 1986 seeking the setting aside of a 1962 judgment, which had struck down the Bombay Prevention of Excommunication Act, 1949, which made excommunication of any community member illegal.

The 1962 Constitution bench judgment said, "It is evident from the religious faith and tenets of the Dawoodi Bohra community that the exercise of the power of excommunication by its religious head on religious grounds formed part of the management of its affairs in matters of religion and the 1949 Act in making even such excommunication invalid, infringed the right of the community under Article 26(b) of the Constitution."

Senior advocate Raju Ramachandran, representing a group of reformist Dawoodi Bohras, submitted that a practice which is conducted in response to secular and social actions of an individual cannot be the subject of Constitutional protection under Article 25 and consequently cannot be a 'matter of religion' under Article 26 of the Constitution.

Responding to the submission, Justice Nagarathna said that if everybody starts questioning certain religious practices or matters of religion before a constitutional court, then "what happens to this civilisation where religion is so intimately connected with the Indian society".

"There will be hundreds of petitions questioning this right that right, opening of the temple, and the closure of the temple. We are conscious of this," she said.

Rat poison, not watermelon, killed 4 of Mumbai family

MUMBAI, DHNS: More than a week after a family of four from Mumbai's Pydhonie area died under mysterious circumstances after eating biryani and watermelon, it has emerged that they seem to have consumed zinc phosphide, the chemical used in rat poison.

The incident was reported on the intervening night of April 25-26, 2026.

Now the investigations of the Mumbai police revolves around a possible suicide pact or murder.

The deceased were Abdullah Dokadia (40), his wife Nasreen (35) and their two daughters Ayesha (16) and Zainab (13).

An Accidental Death Report (ADR) case was registered at JJ Marg police station after the incident.

The viscera report on Thursday revealed the presence of zinc phosphide.

The Forensic Science Laboratory and the Food and Drug Administration were part of the investigations.

During the course of investigations, the Police had recorded statements of neighbours and relatives.

Only half of required NCERT textbooks for Class 9 printed

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) has, so far, printed only half of the required number of textbooks for Class 9, said sources in the Education Ministry.

A senior official from the ministry said the government is trying to offset the shortage of textbooks by increasing printing. "The NCERT needs to print 15 crore textbooks for this academic session. Till now, 7-8 crore textbooks have been printed," the official said.

Students of Class 9 have been facing acute shortage of textbooks, which were revised from this academic session. However, ministry sources assured that all books should be available by this month end.

The current academic session started on April 1, and several students are yet to get their books. NCERT eventually posted the textbooks online.

The official said the textbooks for classes 10 and 11 are set to be revised next year. "Our endeavour is that we are prepared in time and have the books ready before the start of the next session," the official said.

The textbooks were also in the news after a social science textbook for Class 8 had a chapter criticising the judiciary, prompting the Supreme Court to order a "blanket ban" on the textbook.

While a revised chapter has been prepared by a committee of experts, and the concerned textbook is revised for this academic year, ministry officials said that the committee, constituted after the court order, is investigating the issues.

NCERT, which was declared deemed to be university this year, will soon start courses. While it comes under the purview of the UGC under the ministry's Department of Higher Education, it will be funded by the Department of Secondary Education.

Nida Khan held in TCS case

NASHIK, PTI: Nashik TCS sexual harassment and religious coercion case accused Nida Khan was held on Thursday in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, police said.

Nida was held with the help of the local police and the crime branch of that city, Nashik police commissioner Sandeep Karnik said.

The Special Investigation Team of the Nashik police is probing nine cases of molestation and harassment at TCS' Nashik unit. It had launched a search for Nida in Maharashtra. She is accused of targeting employees in a WhatsApp group, and advising women staff to dress and behave in accordance with Islamic traditions.

UP: Five children among 6 dead as boat capsizes in Yamuna

NDRF and SDRF personnel carry out a search and rescue operation in boat capsize incident in the Yamuna. PTI

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Six people, including five children, drowned after a boat capsized in the Yamuna River in Uttar Pradesh's Hamirpur district.

The incident happened near Bhouli village late on Wednesday evening. Sources said that there were nine passengers on the ill-fated boat when it overturned in the middle of the river.

The victims were identified as Akanksha and Rani, both aged nine, and Labhyansh, Mahesh, and Aditya, aged five, six, and eleven. Brijrani, the sole adult to die in the tragedy, was 25 years old. Sources said victims had gone across the river to have watermelon and were returning home when the tragedy struck. The boatman managed to rescue three people.

According to eyewitness accounts, the tragedy happened after the boatman received a call on his mobile and lost control of the boat.

Senior officials rushed to the spot and launched the rescue operations. District officials said that teams of NDRF and SDRF were also assisting in the rescue operations.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

YOU SEEM A LITTLE MORE ENERGIZED THAN USUAL AFTER A LONG DAY AT WORK, HONEY
THE BOSS CALLED ME INTO HIS OFFICE AND GAVE ME A REAL KICK IN THE PANTS
GOODNESS! WHAT DID HE SAY THAT WAS SO INSPIRING?
HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING...HE ACTUALLY GAVE ME A KICK IN THE PANTS!

Hagar The Horrible

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO A STRANGER COMPLAIN ABOUT HER PROBLEMS!
DON'T THANK ME YET!
I'M GOING TO MAKE IT MY BUSINESS TO SOLVE ALL YOUR PROBLEMS!
OH, GREAT! A NEW PROBLEM!

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

IN CHAPTER FIVE MY BOOK REALLY GETS GOING
BEETHOVEN AND PHYLLIS GEORGE ARE HAVING DINNER TOGETHER, AND..
PHYLLIS GEORGE?
IT'S NOT GEORGE PHYLLIS, IS IT? THAT WOULD SPOIL THE WHOLE STORY

Marvin

BEING IN THIS HORRIBLE WEATHER MAKES YOU APPRECIATE THAT ONE MONTH OF WONDERFUL WEATHER WE GET BEFORE IT GETS INSUFFERABLY HOT

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ELLEV

CREOF

WSARPL

SNVAIH

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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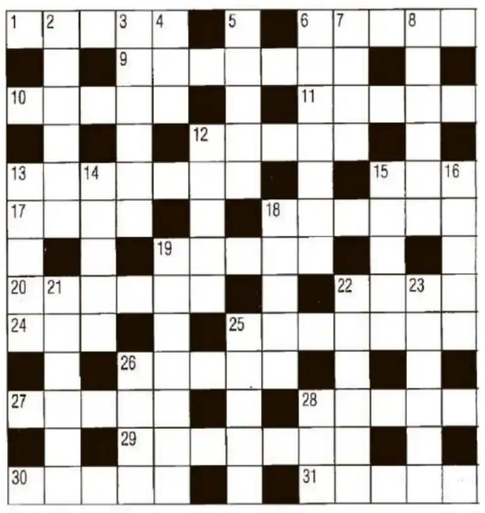
Print your answer here: ____ - ____ (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TITLE ENVOY BONNET HERBAL
Answer: When central air conditioning was invented, there was — "VENT-ELATION"

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12412

CRYPTIC



ACROSS
1 See a race as a rip-off (5)
6 Cuba's peculiar mode of diving (5)
9 Fresh lead possibly given by F.D.R. (3,4)
10 Put on new gates (5)
11 Store up, perhaps certainly without certainty! (3,2)
12 Having been prosecuted, was obliged to be better (3,2)
13 Artist who had a very short distance to sail, possibly (7)
15 Assumed total? (3)
17 Did archery give him a sore back? (4)
18 Seated in a way looking dignified (6)
19 Appears to be the way to the river (5)
20 Terribly sallow, one admits (6)
22 For the underpaid, is it a bit of a surprise? (4)
24 Song of the broody hen? (3)
25 Go off in a huff in the manner of uncle (7)
26 A belt possibly with six pockets (5)
27 Leave mine at the back of the house (3,2)
28 Can one not do so without a hitch? (5)
29 A mere feline, one might imagine, but it's a mongoose (7)
30 Anything out of this is no good (5)
31 Old Bill or Robert (5)

DOWN
2 Ballonist's boast, maybe? (3,3)
3 High spirits shown in use of slang out East (6)
4 Whence to drive off some state enemies (3)
5 Thoughts I had on commencing Easter (5)
6 Handily, they show respect of rank (7)
7 Thunderous applause? (4)
8 Port on a bend in the Tiber, as one might see (6)
12 Covers with skins (5)
13 A lad returns to me with honour (5)
14 Sucker's money? (5)
15 Pulsating stuff? (5)
16 A riotous engagement (5)
18 What to do at the mention of cheese? (5)
19 As worn by a hard-working girl? (7)
21 Working party? (6)
22 Flexible time for musicians (6)
23 Mark, a seaman, once held sacred (6)
25 A lover of insincerity (5)
26 When one returned from Yosemite? (4)
28 Thelma Barlow's part as "Queen" (3)

ACROSS
1 Suspends (5)
6 Hidden store (5)
9 Regain (7)
10 Loose stones (5)
11 Routine (5)
12 Morsel (5)
13 Comfort (7)
15 Craft (3)
17 Great Lake (4)
18 Sensitive (6)
19 Facial hair (5)
20 Noose (6)
22 Operatic song (4)
24 Mineral (3)
25 Emerging (7)
26 Dull (5)
27 Danger (5)
28 Subject (5)
29 Master (7)
30 War-horse (5)
31 Viper (5)

DOWN
2 Mooring device (6)
3 Lubricant (6)
4 Regard (3)
5 Coercion (5)
6 Tranquillised (7)
7 Snare (4)
8 Safe (6)
12 Semi-frozen rain (5)
13 Stringed instrument (5)
14 Saltpetre (5)
15 Love (5)
16 Handle (5)
18 Step (5)
19 Struggled (7)
21 Passionate (6)
22 Agreement (6)
23 Within (6)
25 Female relative (5)
26 Location (4)
28 Beverage (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12411

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, Gaping 7, Walk over 8, O-pe-nly 10, Aside 13, Mail 14, Rode 15, Kite 16, Pop 17, Bail 19, Rain 21, Butter- C-up 23, But-T 24, Eyed 26, Co(p)y 27, (B)Anne(d) 29, Iris(h) 32, Tied 33, Count 34, RA-Mona 35, To-read- or 36, Starch.
DOWN: 1, Swear 2, Flu-I'd 3, Love 4, Groat 5, P-eel 6, Nelson 9, Pierc-e 11, Sot 12, Debut 13, Mile End 15, Kit 16, Pip (rev.) 18, Attain 20, A-(st)udio 21, B-U-y 22, Rye 23, Bogart 25, Win 28, Neath 30, Ruddy 31, Stork 32, To-Ur 33, Crew.

EASY
ACROSS: 4, Cravat 7, Astonish 8, Ashore 10, Stabs 13, Kite 14, Hula 15, Care 16, Gel 17, Clot 19, Prod 21, Bollywood 23, Tuna 24, Dons 26, Big 27, Main 29, Eden 32, Maid 33, Aside 34, Harass 35, Live wire 36, Gentle.
DOWN: 1, Harsh 2, Steal 3, Onus 4, Chair 5, Ache 6, Air bed 9, Step on 11, Tub 12, Bacon 13, Katydid 15, Col 16, God 18, Llamas 20, Roses 21, Bug 22, Won 23, Tirade 25, Wed 28, Aisle 30, Digit 31, Never 32, Matt 33, Ayes.

◆ SU-DO-KU-6900 ◆

4		6			1			
				9	7		1	
	7	2		8		5		9
	4		8			1	3	
	8			3			5	
	2	7			5		4	
7		9		4		3	2	
	1		3	2				
			7			6		4

hard

9	7	5	1	2	3	4	6	8
1	2	6	8	9	4	5	7	3
4	3	8	7	6	5	2	1	9
7	9	3	2	8	6	1	4	5
6	1	4	5	3	9	7	8	2
8	5	2	4	7	1	3	9	6
3	6	7	9	4	2	8	5	1
2	8	1	6	5	7	9	3	4
5	4	9	3	1	8	6	2	7

SOLUTION TO 6899

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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							5th Letter Triple	RACK 1
Y4	I1	P3	D2	P3	R1	I1		
								RACK 2
S1	T1	O1	U1	G2	A1	N1		
								RACK 3
G2	L1	A1	E1	L1	I1	Y4	Triple Word Score	
								RACK 4
Y4	N1	T1	N1	Y4	R1	A1	Double Word Score	

PAR SCORE 155-165
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

W4	A1	V4	I1	N1	G2	
B3	R1	A1	V4	O1	S1	
B3	I1	A1	X8	I1	A1	L1
F4	L1	I1	G2	H4	T1	

PAR SCORE 85-95

RACK 1 = 39
RACK 2 = 15
RACK 3 = 66
RACK 4 = 13
JUDD'S TOTAL 133

HITORI-3354

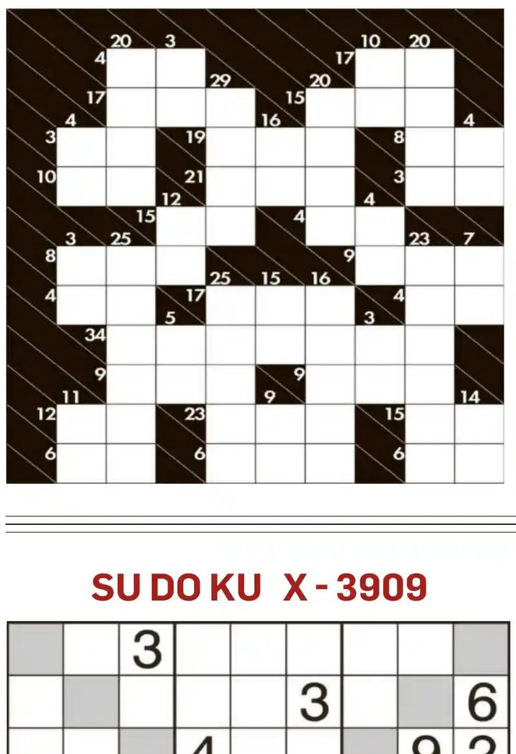
6	6	2	5	7	1	7	3
1	7	5	8	7	3	6	2
4	6	7	1	8	2	3	6
7	4	2	2	5	7	2	1
7	1	6	3	7	2	4	6
5	7	1	7	2	6	7	8
7	2	8	7	6	7	1	7
3	6	6	4	2	8	5	7

SOLUTION TO 3353

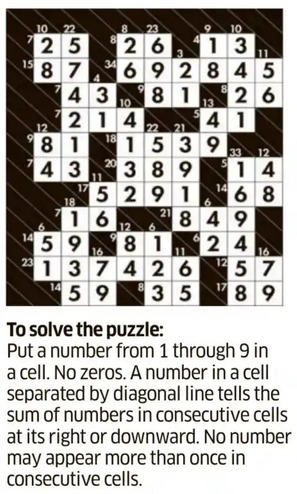
3	■	2	4	■	8	6	5
2	6	7	■	8	■	1	■
6	■	3	5	2	1	4	7
■	4	5	3	6	■	8	2
5	■	8	■	3	4	■	6
4	2	1	6	■	5	7	■
8	1	6	■	7	3	■	4
■	8	4	1	■	6	5	3

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3354

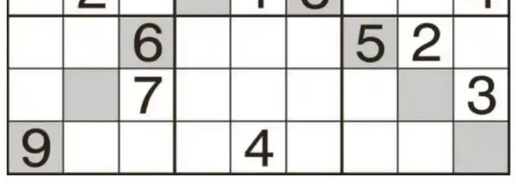


SOLUTION TO 3353



To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3909



SOLUTION TO 3908

9	7	5	8	4	1	2	6	3
2	8	1	6	7	3	4	5	9
3	6	4	2	9	5	8	1	7
6	4	2	3	5	9	7	8	1
5	1	8	4	6	7	3	9	2
7	9	3	1	8	2	5	4	6
8	5	7	9	2	6	1	3	4
1	2	6	5	3	4	9	7	8
4	3	9	7	1	8	6	2	5

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Military stresses transformation amid China-Pak collusion threats

Post-Sindoor strategy redefines India's defence

KALYAN RAY
JAIPUR, DHNS

A year after Operation Sindoor, the Indian Army is transforming its battle formations to make them more agile, while the Indian Air Force will soon receive two more squadrons of S-400 air defence systems to further secure the air space, top military officials said on Thursday.

They also note that China's continuous military assistance is factored into the Indian security matrix.

The officials further assert that every terror camp in Pakistan is visible to the Indian forces and no sanctuaries are safe even if Islamabad shifts them deep inside the country.

Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, Air Marshal AK Bharti and Vice Admiral AN Pramod, who were the director generals of military operations in their respective services during last year's India-Pakistan conflict, spoke to the media at the army's South Western Command that looks after a part of the Western front.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also addressed a Joint Commanders Conference.

Responding to queries, Lt Gen Ghai said that critical transformation in the armoured corps, mechanised infantry and aviation cops was at an "advanced stage of deliberation" and would be implemented.

This comes after the army carried out a series of such transformations in the infantry and artillery regiments to create Bhairav battalions, Ashni platoons, Divyastra batteries and Shaktiban regiments to tackle emerging threats.

Asked about securing the airspace, Air Marshal Bharti said the fourth squadron of S-400 would arrive next month and the fifth by year-end, further strengthening the air defence system.

The Defence Ministry recently approved the purchase of five additional squadrons of S-400, which, as per Air Marshal Bharti, is a "work in progress".

On China-Pakistan collusion, Lt Gen Ghai said, "Pakistan and China, in their own words, have ties that are deeper than the seas, higher than the mountains. Pakistan has 80% of its military equipment of Chinese origin. It's not something that is in our control."

"More importantly, the niche platforms, whether it is ships, aircraft or submarines, are being given. China has already announced that in the next two years, 40-odd J-35s are going to Pakistan," Vice Admiral AN Pramod said.

"We take China's assistance to Pakistan into our military calculus in space-based assets, intelligence sharing, cyber support and arms," he said.

China has launched four Pakistani satellites in the last 15 months and plans to launch another four by 2026.

On India's future space plans, Lt Gen Zubin Minwalla from the Integrated Defence Staff said the Indian military would soon operate ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) and communication satellites.

SECURITY MATRIX

- Agile battle formations under advanced deliberation
- Fourth S-400 squadron next month, fifth by year-end
- Five more squadrons approved, "work in progress"
- 80% of Pakistan's arms of Chinese origin
- During Op Sindoor, China shared real-time satellite images with Pak

Former DGMO Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai (second left), DCIDS Lt Gen Zubin A Minwalla (left), Air Marshal Awadhesh Kumar Bharati (second right), and Vice Admiral AN Pramod address the media in Jaipur on Thursday. PTI

India gave befitting reply to Pak-backed terrorism: MEA

NEW DELHI, PTI: On the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor, India on Thursday reaffirmed its right to defend itself against Pakistan-backed cross-border terrorism while vowing to further strengthen the global fight against the menace.

External affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, referring to the operation, asserted that India gave a befitting reply to Pakistan for sponsoring terrorism.

"We are marking the first anniversary of Op Sindoor today. The entire world saw the Pahalgam terrorist attack for what it was. We gave a befitting reply to Pakistan for its sponsorship of cross-border terrorism," he said.

"The world knows that cross-border terrorism has long been an instrument of state policy for Pakistan. We in India have every right to defend ourselves against terrorism," he said.

Jaiswal said India will continue to work to strengthen the global fight against terrorism.

HC clears 22 accused in 2005 Sohrabuddin encounter case

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Nearly two decades after the sensational twin encounters involving alleged gangster Sohrabuddin Sheikh, his wife Kausar Bi and associate Tulsiram Prajapati, the Bombay High Court on Thursday dismissed appeals filed by their family members challenging the December 2018 acquittal of the 22 accused.

The Sohrabuddin Sheikh-Tulsiram Prajapati alleged fake encounter cases — in which current Union Home Minister Amit Shah was among the 38 people chargesheeted before being discharged in 2014 — and the killing of Kausar Bi remain among the most politically sensitive and legally contentious matters in India's recent history.

A division bench upheld the acquittal granted by a Special Court of the CBI and dismissed the appeals filed by Sohrabuddin Sheikh's brothers, Rubabuddin Sheikh and Nayabuddin Sheikh.

On December 21, 2018, then Special CBI Judge SJ Sharma had acquitted all the 22 accused, observing: "The prosecution has failed to put forth any documentary and substantive evidence to suggest or establish the alleged conspiracy and the chain of events... 'I am sorry... three lives were lost... but the judicial system and law demand that we go by evidence."

The brothers of Sohrabuddin Sheikh, residents of Madhya Pradesh, had argued that the trial was flawed.

During the course of the trial, 210 witnesses were examined, but the prosecution's case weakened after 92 of them turned hostile.

The appellants had sought directions for a retrial under Section 386(a) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

It is not yet clear whether the family members will challenge the High Court order before the Supreme Court.

ENCOUNTERS, TRIALS & ACQUITTALS

Nov 23, 2005: **Sohrabuddin Shaikh,** his wife Kausar Bi and associate Tulsiram Prajapati allegedly abducted by Gujarat ATS from Maharashtra

Nov 25, 2005: Prajapati handed over to Rajasthan Police

Nov 26, 2005: Sohrabuddin shot dead in alleged fake encounter by Gujarat and Rajasthan Police

Nov 29, 2005: **Kausar Bi** allegedly raped, killed, cremated in Gujarat

Dec 2005: Sohrabuddin's brother Rubabuddin Shaikh writes to CJI alleging fake encounter. SC directs Gujarat CID-Crime to probe

Dec 28, 2006: **Prajapati** killed in alleged fake encounter in Gujarat

2007: Prajapati's mother moves SC for CBI probe

Jan 12, 2010: SC hands over Sohrabuddin probe to CBI

July 2010: Amit Shah arrested in connection with the case

Oct 2010: **Amit Shah** granted bail

April 8, 2011: Prajapati case transferred to CBI

Sept 27, 2012: SC transfers trial in Sohrabuddin Shaikh-Kausar Bi case from Gujarat to Mumbai

Dec 1, 2014: Special CBI judge Brijgopal Loya dies of alleged heart attack

Dec 30, 2014: Amit Shah discharged from case

Jan 2018: SC bench rules Judge Loya's death was natural

Nov 26-30, 2018: Statements of 22 accused recorded

Dec 21, 2018: All 22 acquitted for lack of evidence

Jan 2019: Sohrabuddin's family writes to CBI to challenge acquittal

April-June 2019: Sohrabuddin's brothers move Bombay HC

May 7, 2026: HC rejects appeal challenging CBI court's acquittal

'Primary accused in 96.6% Pocso cases were close acquaintances'

NEW DELHI, PTI: In 96.6% of 44,126 cases of sexual abuse of minors, close acquaintances have emerged as the primary offenders, according to the latest data released by the NCRB.

In its report 'Crime in India 2024' released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 44,126 total cases have been registered under the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act under Sections 4 and 6, which pertain to penetrative sexual assault on minors during the year across the country.

The figures present a grim picture as close acquaintances emerged as primary accused in 42,634 (around 96.6%) of the 44,126 total cases falling in that category. The data shows that family members were involved in 3,658 cases, while family friends, neighbours, employers or other known persons were named in 16,668 cases. The largest share came from friends, online friends or live-in partners acting on the pretext of marriage, with 22,308 cases.

Cases where the offender was unknown or not identified stood at mere 1,492, or 3.4% of the total.

Among states, Tamil Nadu reported the highest number of Pocso cases at 5,320, followed by Maharashtra at 4,829 and Madhya Pradesh at 3,721. Uttar Pradesh was next with 3,671 cases.

Bengal tops states in crimes by foreigners: NCRB

NEW DELHI, PTI

Bangladeshi nationals accounted for the highest number of foreign nationals arrested in connection with criminal cases across the country at 3,091 in 2024, followed by Nigerians at 509, Nepalis at 476, and Myanmar nationals at 245, according to the latest NCRB data.

West Bengal recorded the highest number of crimes committed by foreigners among states at 992, while Delhi topped Union Territories in both crimes committed by foreigners and crimes against them, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report showed.

At 64 cases, Delhi recorded the highest number of crimes against foreigners among UTs.

A total of 4,794 foreign nationals, including 944 women and 11 transgender persons, were arrested in criminal cases in the country in 2024, the data showed. They were most commonly booked under the Foreigners Act and Registration of Foreigners Act, followed by the Passport Act and the NDPS Act.

Among IPC/BNS offences, foreigners were mostly booked for forgery (127), followed by theft (112), cheating (78) and murder (45).

Of the total 3,091 cases against Bangladeshi nationals, 1,676 cases were registered under the Foreigners Act and Registration of Foreigners Act, 54.2% of the total. The Passport Act followed with 1,283 cases, or 41.5%.

Out of 509 cases involving Nigerians, the highest number was reported under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act at 259, followed by 136 under the Foreigners Act and Registration of Foreigners Act.

Nepali nationals were mostly booked under the NDPS Act, with 129 cases, or 27.1% of 476 cases. It was followed by other Special and Local Laws crimes with 112 cases, or 23.5%, and theft with 90 cases, or 18.9%.

The NCRB data showed that crimes against foreigners rose from 238 cases in 2023 to 257 in 2024. Maharashtra recorded the highest number of such cases, followed by Karnataka.

CASE COUNT

- Crime against foreigners rose from 238 in 2023 to 257 in 2024
- Maharashtra recorded highest cases at 41, followed by Karnataka at 32
- 20 rape cases, 17 cases of assault on women, 15 murder cases, 13 kidnapping cases reported
- Of the 257 foreign victims, 156 were tourists, and 101 were residing in the country

Canada urged to act against 'anti-India extremist elements': MEA

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Thursday called upon Canada to act against "anti-India extremist elements" operating from Canadian soil against the backdrop of a Canadian intelligence report highlighting the national security threat posed by Khalistani elements.

The annual report for 2025 by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), released last week, said the involvement of Canada-based Khalistani extremists in "violent extremist activities" continues to pose a national security threat to Canada.

"India has repeatedly urged the Canadian government to take effective action against anti-India extremist elements operating from its soil. This includes addressing the issue of glorification of violence, threats against Indian leaders and diplomats, vandalism of places of worship, and attempts to promote secessionism through so-called 'referendums'," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing.

Jaiswal was responding to a question on the report by CSIS.

He said India has consistently spoken out about concerns regarding the use of Canadian territory as a "safe haven" by extremist and separatist elements.

"The CSIS assessment acknowledges the presence of supporters of the Khalistan separatist movement in Canada and notes that Canada-based Khalistani extremist (CBKE) groups continue to pose a national security threat not only to India but also to Canada," he said.

Jaiswal said the report also highlights that such elements "misuse democratic freedoms and institutions to promote extremism and raise funds that are diverted towards violent activities".

To a separate question on the CSIS report mentioning India, alongside China, Russia, Iran and Pakistan, among the "main perpetrators of foreign interference and espionage against Canada", Jaiswal said New Delhi has consistently and categorically rejected such "baseless imputations".

MAHARANI CLUSTER UNIVERSITY
Palace Road, Bengaluru - 560001. Email:mcublr@gmail.com

UNDER GRADUATE ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR 2026-27

Notification No: MCU/AS1-070/02/2025-26 Date:05.05.2026

UG COURSES OFFERED

B.A Bachelor of Arts	• HEOK, HEOE, HEP, HES, HEM, HET, PsySP, PsyJOE, PSOK, PSOE, JOKOE, TOKOE, SEP, PSM, JPsyM, PsyES.		
B.Com.	B.Com (Business Analytics)	B.B.A	BTTM
B.Sc Bachelor of Science	• PCM, PME, PMSt, PMCs, EMCs, CsMSt, CBZ, CBMi, CBBt, CZBt, BiSBt, BiSMi, BiBZ, BiZMi, BZP, BZS, CZMi.		
B.C.A., Bachelor of Computer Applications	B.C.A., (Data Science)	B.C.A., (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning)	
B.Sc., Data Science	B.Sc., Artificial Intelligence		
B.Sc., (Composite Home Science)	B.Sc., (Early Childhood Education & Inclusive Education)		
B.Sc., (Food Science and Nutrition)	B.Sc., (Fashion and Apparel Design)	B.Sc., (Interior Design and Decoration)	

ONLY WOMEN CAN APPLY

The candidates should register in UUCMS online and submit the application. A candidate can apply for more than one course for which she is eligible. FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT Email ID mcublr@gmail.com. Landline: 6362446600

DIPR/CP/553/CCL/2026-27

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Greater Bengaluru Authority, Annexe-3 Building, N R Square, Bengaluru

No: DCF/PR/145/2025-26 Date: 07-05-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the Citizens of Bengaluru that the Director, ICFRE-Indian Wood Science and Technology (IWST), Bengaluru has submitted an application and requested the Tree Officer/DCF, GBA for removal of trees standing inside the premises of IWST, Bengaluru for Establishment of proposed ECO-Sewage Treatment Plant. The details are given below:

Name of the Project	Establishment of Proposed Eco-Sewage Treatment Plant		
Name of the Agency	Indian Wood Science and Technology, Bengaluru		
Purpose for removal of trees	The trees are standing at the premises of IWST and coming within the Project area of Establishment of proposed ECO-STP		
Description of the area with clear demarcation of boundaries or with GPS Coordinates	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)	Location
	13°00'43"	77°34'18"	The trees are standing inside the premises of the Indian Wood Science Technology, 17th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru
Enumeration of trees • Total No. of trees standing in the project area	50 Nos (Annexure 1)	Description of Trees, Species, Location, Area, etc., are uploaded in the website of GBA for information of all (www.bbmp.gov.in)	
Mode of communication of comments* (Public can send their comments either by E-mail / Post / Hand)	Address: a. The Deputy Conservator of Forests & Tree Officer, GBA, N.R. Sqaure, Bengaluru -02 E-mail ID: dcfbbmp12@gmail.com b. The Director, IWST, Bengaluru. E-mail id: dir_iwst@icfre.org # # A Copy of the Comments communicated directly to Director, IWST, should also be marked to the Tree-Officer/DCF, GBA		
Deadline for Filling Objections	Ten (10) days from the date of publication of this notification in Newspaper *Objections/Comments/Suggestions should be relevant and specific to the project		

In view of the above, the suggestions/objections/comments are invited from citizens under Section 8 (3) (vii) of the Karnataka Preservation of Tree Act, 1976.

Sd/- Tree Officer
& Deputy Conservator of Forests, GBA Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE
(Under Section 102(1) & (2) of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016)

For the attention of the Creditors of Sri. Vijayakumar R, Sri. Sree Ram Reddy M N, Sri. Harish S, Sri. N Nanjundaiah, Sri. Devendra N and Smt. Praveena N - Debtors/Personal Guarantors to M/s. Kanva Fashions Limited (KFL) (U18109KA1999PLC025423)

	RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1.	Name and Address of the Debtors/Personal Guarantors	1. Sri. Vijayakumar R, S/o Sri K C Rama Reddy, Danojipalya, Kanvanagar, Nelamangala- 572129. 2. Sri. Sree Ram Reddy M N, S/o Narayanappa, #53, Kanva Nagar, Dhanoji Palya,Nelamangala-562123. 3. Sri. Harish S, S/o Sri Seetharamaiah K R, 456, Janatha Colony, Behind Post Office, Banneraghatta, Bengaluru- 560 083. 4. Sri. N. Nanjundaiah, S/o S. Narayanappa, # A 408, Brigade Gate Way Apartment, Dr. Rajkumar Road, 02nd Stage, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru- 560 055 5. Sri. Devendra N, S/o Nanjundappa, No. 324 V.V Nagar, R.T NAGAR Post, HMT Layout,10 cross 6th Main Near Andra Bank, Bengaluru-560032. 6. Smt. Praveena N, D/o Ashwath Reddy, #53, 18th 'A' Cross, Raghavendra Layout, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bengaluru – 560058.
2.	Details of the order & Insolvency Commencement date in respect of Debtor/ Personal Guarantors	1. Sri. Vijayakumar R: CP (IB) No.40/BB/2025 on 29th April 2026 2. Sri. Sree Ram Reddy M N: CP (IB) No.41/BB/2025 on 29th April 2026 3. Sri. Harish S: CP (IB) No.42/BB/2025 on 29th April 2026 4. Sri. N. Nanjundaiah: CP (IB) No.43/BB/2025 on 29th April 2026 5. Sri. Devendra N: CP (IB) No.44/BB/2025 on 29th April 2026 6. Smt. Praveena N: CP (IB) No.45/BB/2025 on 29th April 2026
3.	Name, registration number, email id and address of the Insolvency Professional acting as Resolution Professional (RP) for correspondence	Sri. Ravindra Beleyur IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P00189/2017-18/10368 No.428, 19th B Cross, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 011 Tele: +91 80 26540193 Email: ravi@beleyur.com
4.	Last date for submission of claims	29th May 2026
5.	Relevant forms in which claim to be filed available at	Weblink: www.ibbi.gov.in/home/downloads

Notice is hereby given that the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru has ordered the commencement of the Insolvency resolution process against Sri. Vijayakumar R, Sri. Sree Ram Reddy M.N, Sri. Harish S, Sri. N Nanjundaiah, Sri. Devendra N and Smt. Praveena N Debtors/Personal Guarantors to M/s Kanva Fashions Limited on 29th April 2026.

Creditors of the above Personal Guarantors in the matter of debt availed by M/s Kanva Fashions Limited are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 29th May 2026 in the prescribed format to the Resolution Professional at the address mentioned against entry No.3.

Financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means.

Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties

Date: 07.05.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
(Ravindra Beleyur)
Insolvency Professional
Reg. No. IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P00189/2017-18/10368

Speeding was biggest killer on Indian roads in 2024: NCRB

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Speeding was the leading cause of road accidents in India in 2024, followed by dangerous or careless driving, according to the latest data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

The country recorded a total of 4,67,967 road accidents in 2024, resulting in 1,75,142 deaths and injuries to 4,48,365 persons.

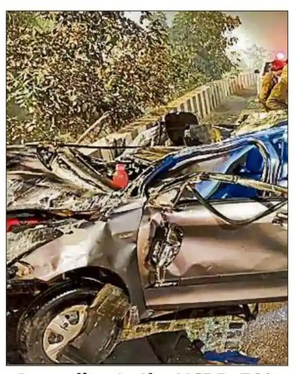
The number of accidents rose 0.85% from 4,64,029 in 2023, while fatalities increased by 0.76% from 1,73,826.

According to the NCRB, 58% of all road accident deaths (1,01,649) were caused by speeding.

Dangerous or careless driving, including improper overtaking, accounted for another 26.3% (46,132 deaths). Other contributing factors included poor weather conditions (2.9% or 4,992 deaths).

Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol caused 3,375 deaths (1.9%) and animal crossing 2,553 deaths (1.5%).

Two-wheelers accounted for the highest number of fatalities, with 84,599 deaths, contributing 48.3% of all road-accident deaths.



According to the NCRB, 58% of all road accident deaths (1,01,649) were caused by speeding. PTI FILE

25k pedestrian deaths

Pedestrians accounted for 14.7% (25,769 deaths), followed by cars at 13.6% (23,739 deaths).

India's total road length stands at 63.3 lakh km, of which national highways make up only 1.32 lakh km.

Despite their small share of road length, these highways accounted for a significantly higher proportion of crashes.

Although they constitute just 2.1% of India's total road network, they accounted for 29.8% of all road accidents in 2024.

State highways accounted for 22% of total road accidents, while other roads — including district and rural roads — accounted for 48.2%.

Cruise virus outbreak sparks global tracing

GENEVA/THE HAGUE, AP/AFP

Over two dozen passengers from at least 12 countries left a cruise ship hit by a deadly hantavirus outbreak without contact tracing after the first fatality on board, raising concerns over possible international spread as travellers returned home.

Health authorities on at least four continents were monitoring or tracing people who may have come into contact with cruise passengers.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday that there were now five confirmed hantavirus cases linked to the outbreak aboard the MV Hondius, with three more suspected cases, including three deaths.

Despite the fatalities, WHO officials stressed that the outbreak was not the beginning of an epidemic or a repeat of Covid-19. "So far, eight cases have been reported, including three deaths. Five of the eight cases have been confirmed as hantavirus and the other three are suspected," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a press conference in Geneva.

The Dutch health ministry said a woman who was not on the ship was being tested for hantavirus and kept in an isolated ward at an Amsterdam hospital after showing symptoms. Officials said she was part of a flight crew and had contact with an infected passenger during a flight.

If confirmed, she would become the first known person not aboard the MV Hondius to be infected in the outbreak.

Three passengers have died in the outbreak and several others remain ill. Three people, including the ship's doctor, were evacuated on Wednesday while the vessel was near the West African island nation of Cape Verde and taken to specialised hospitals in Europe for treatment.

The Netherlands-based operator, Oceanwide Expeditions, said 29 passengers disembarked at the remote South Atlantic island of St Helena on April 24, while the Dutch Foreign Ministry estimated the number at around 40.

The company had not previously disclosed that dozens of passengers left the vessel at that time.

1,500 ships trapped in Gulf due to Iran conflict: IMO

20,000 crew members stranded as blockade disrupts global shipping

PANAMA CITY, AFP

Around 1,500 ships and their crews are trapped in the Gulf due to the Iranian blockade in the Strait of Hormuz, the secretary-general of the UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO) said in Panama on Thursday.

The war in West Asia, triggered on February 28 by Israel and the United States against Iran, provoked reprisals from Tehran across the region and led to a shipping blockade in Hormuz, a crucial global trade route. "Right now, we have approximately 20,000 crew members and around 1,500 ships trapped," Arsenio Dominguez told the Maritime Convention of the Americas.

Dominguez said maritime shipping moves more than 80% of the world's consumed products. The stranded crew members "are innocent people who are doing their jobs every day for the benefit of other countries", Dominguez told the gathering of industry executives and IMO representatives.

Before the conflict broke out, a fifth of the world's petroleum and gas passed through the Strait of Hormuz. The closure has led to a global surge in hydrocarbon prices.

A cargo ship is docked at the Port of Fujairah, as the US-Israel conflict with Iran limits marine traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates, on Wednesday. REUTERS

Chinese-owned tanker hit

A Chinese-owned oil products tanker was attacked near the Strait of Hormuz on Monday, Chinese media outlet Caixin reported on Thursday, Reuters reports from London/Athens.

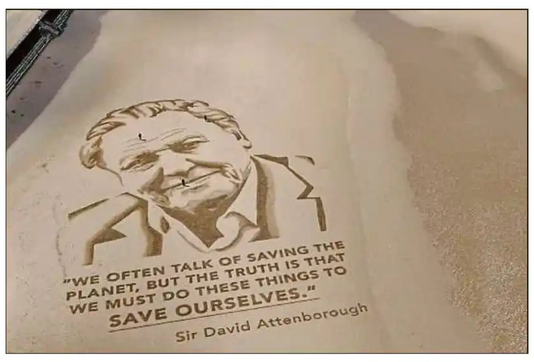
This was the first reported attack on a Chinese oil tanker, a person familiar with the matter told Caixin. The unnamed vessel's deck caught fire, according to Caixin. It was not immediately clear whether any crew members were injured. China's foreign ministry did not respond to an out-of-hours request for comment.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Russian air defences take down hundreds of Ukrainian drones

▶ Russian air defences shot down 347 Ukrainian drones overnight, Russia's Defence Ministry said on Thursday, in what appeared to be a major attack after Moscow rejected Kyiv's ceasefire proposal earlier this week and tensions mounted over security concerns ahead of Russia's upcoming Victory Day celebrations, AP/PTI reports from Kyiv.

Incoming drones were destroyed over 20 Russian regions, including Moscow, in what was Ukraine's second-largest aerial attack since Russia's full-scale invasion more than four years ago. The largest attack came last March, when Ukraine launched 389 drones. Dozens more Ukrainian drones were launched during daylight hours on Thursday, the ministry said, including some again heading towards Moscow. Nearly 100 flights in and out of the Russian capital's three main airports — Sheremetyevo, Domodedovo and Vnukovo — were delayed or cancelled by midday, the Moskva news agency reported. The attacks came ahead of Russia's most important secular holiday, Victory Day, which marks the anniversary of Nazi Germany's defeat in World War II.



A drone view shows artists from the Sand In Your Eye art team putting the finishing touches to a sand portrait of Sir David Attenborough to mark the conservationist's 100th birthday, in Morecambe, Britain, on Wednesday. REUTERS

Starmer faces UK local poll test

▶ British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's leadership is set to face a major test as millions of voters head to the polls in key local and devolved parliamentary elections across the UK on Thursday, PTI reports from London.

The biggest electoral exercise since the 2024 UK general election is being viewed as a test of Starmer's grip on the Labour Party, which has been trailing smaller parties in several pre-poll surveys. Ahead of the results, speculation has grown over a possible leadership challenge from sections of the party, with dissidents reportedly seeking the support of 81 Labour MPs required to trigger a formal contest for a new leader.

Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer arrives with his wife Victoria Starmer to cast their votes at a polling station in Westminster Chapel on Thursday. AFP

B'desh measles toll rises to 336

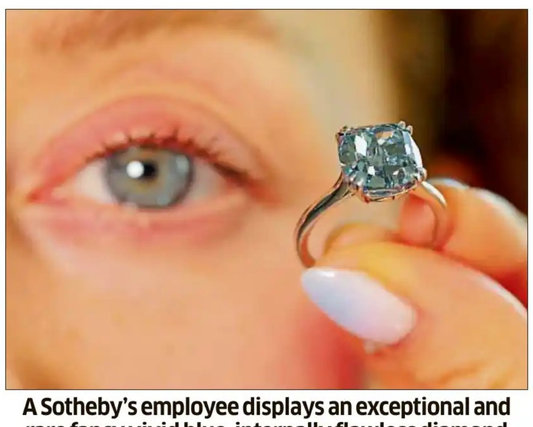
▶ Twelve children died of measles in Bangladesh in the past 24 hours, taking the death toll from the contagious disease outbreak to 336, PTI reports from Dhaka.

The toll continues to rise despite a massive campaign launched to curb the rapid spread of the disease. "In the past 24 hours, 1,238 children with measles symptoms were admitted to hospitals nationwide and, during the same period, 12 children died," a Directorate General of Health Services spokesperson said. The spokesperson said that since the outbreak began on March 15, at least 336 children had died from confirmed measles infections. However, several health experts and DGHS officials fear the actual toll could be much higher, as many affected children may not have been taken to hospitals.

Note linked to Epstein released

▶ A note that Jeffrey Epstein's former cellmate claimed he found after the disgraced financier's first suspected jail suicide attempt was made public on Wednesday, years after being sealed and locked in a courthouse vault as part of an unrelated legal dispute, AP/PTI reports from New York.

US District Judge Kenneth Karas in White Plains, New York, ordered the release of the note after The New York Times requested last week that it and other documents in a case involving the former cellmate, Nicholas Tartaglione, be unsealed. Federal prosecutors did not oppose the request. Few people had known about the note until Tartaglione, a former police officer serving a life sentence for killing four people, mentioned it last year on writer Jessica Reed Kraus' podcast.



A Sotheby's employee displays an exceptional and rare fancy vivid blue, internally flawless diamond weighing 6.03 carats, estimated at $9–12 million, during a preview in Geneva on Thursday. REUTERS

Bangladesh seeks China's support for Teesta project

Dhaka's move to involve Beijing could add strain to ties with New Delhi

BEIJING, PTI

Bangladesh's new government, headed by Tarique Rahman, has formally sought China's involvement and support for the Teesta River restoration project, a move that may cast a shadow over New Delhi-Dhaka ties.

Issues concerning the Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project were discussed during a meeting between Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Beijing on Wednesday, according to the state-run Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha news agency.

The Teesta River flows from the eastern Himalayas through Sikkim and West Bangal before entering Bangladesh, where it is a key source of irrigation and livelihoods of millions of people.

Tourists enjoy a boat ride at the Teesta river in Jalpaiguri district, some 25 km from Siliguri. AFP FILE PHOTO

Expressing support for the new Bangladesh government, Wang was quoted saying by BSS news agency that China is ready to promote the alignment of the high-quality Belt and Road cooperation with Bangladesh's national development strategies and deepen cooperation in traditional areas like economy, infrastructure, and people-to-people exchanges, among others. The government will also encourage Chinese enterprises to invest in Bangladesh, he said.

According to the Chinese official readout, Wang stressed that China's development of relations with Bangladesh and other South Asian countries does not target any third party, nor should it be affected by any third party.

This is Rahman's first visit to China after the new government headed by Tarique Rahman took over power in February this year. He arrived here on May 5 and is scheduled to leave on Thursday.

Last month, Rahman was in India. His talks with Indian leaders were closely watched in Beijing as the interim administration led by Muhammad Yunus had moved closer to China and Pakistan after the fall of Sheikh Hasina, straining ties between Dhaka and New Delhi.

RANDHIR JAISWAL
India's MEA spokesperson

"Between India and Bangladesh, we have 54 rivers that the two countries share. We have structured bilateral mechanisms to discuss all water-related issues. These bilateral mechanisms continue to meet at regular intervals.

Pakistan open to meaningful talks with India, says foreign office

ISLAMABAD, PTI: Pakistan on Thursday said it has never shied away from dialogue with India on any issue, but stressed that such talks should be "meaningful".

Addressing the media, Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi recalled last year's four-day conflict with India and said Pakistan would respond with full strength in the event of any aggression.

"Pakistan has never shied away from dialogue with India on any issue. We have repeatedly expressed our readiness for dialogue. However, it takes two to dialogue, and for it to be meaningful, it must be a dialogue and not a monologue," Andrabi said.

On the first anniversary of 'Marka-e-Haq', the name given by Pakistan to the brief conflict with India, the army described it as a "defining chapter" in the country's military history.

In response to the Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 last year, carrying out airstrikes on nine terror infrastructure sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, killing at least 100 terrorists.

China gives ex-defence chiefs suspended death sentences

BEIJING, PTI

Two former Chinese defence ministers, Wei Fenghe and Li Shangfu, were sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve on graft charges by a military court on Thursday, in an unprecedented purge at the top levels of the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

Their sentences were handed down separately by the military court. Both Wei and Li were former members of the powerful Central Military Commission (CMC), headed by President Xi Jinping, and also served as state councillors, a high-ranking designation within the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC).

Wei, 72, was convicted of accepting bribes, while Li, 68, was convicted of both accepting and offering bribes, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported, citing court rulings. In China, death sentences with a reprieve are typically commuted to life imprisonment. Both Wei and Li previously headed the powerful Rocket Force, established in 2015 as part of Xi's military overhaul. General Wei, who led the Rocket Force from its inception until 2017 and later served as defence minister from 2018 to 2023, had been detained and expelled from the CPC over corruption charges. The Rocket Force operates China's most powerful long-and short-range missiles and is regarded as one of the key military arms of the PLA.

China's former defence ministers Wei Fenghe and Li Shangfu. AFP FILE PHOTO

Both men were stripped of their political rights for life, and all their personal property will be confiscated. The court rulings stated that no further commutation or parole would be permitted after their sentences are commuted to life imprisonment upon the expiry of the two-year reprieve period.

Since Xi came to power in 2012, he has overseen sweeping anti-corruption purges targeting party officials and the military.The periodic purges are widely seen as efforts to instil fear and obedience within the party and military ranks.

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
6th Floor, 2nd Stage, M.S. Building, Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-560 001.

No. ED/12/KVV/2026 Date: 06.05.2026

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION
Selection to the Post of Vice-Chancellor of Kannada University, Hampi

Invitation of application for the post of Vice-Chancellor of Kannada University, Hampi
The Department of Higher Education, Govt of Karnataka invites Applications from eligible Professors/Educationists for the post of Vice-Chancellor of Kannada University, Hampi in accordance with the provisions of Section 13(2) of the Kannada University Act, 1991. Applications should be submitted within 20 days from the date of this notification to "The Secretary to Government, Dept of Higher Education, 6th Floor, Multi-Storeyed Building, Bengaluru – 560001". Email: **kannadaunivc2026@gmail.com.** The detailed application form and other details are available on Higher Education Department website **https://hed.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Secretary to Government
Department of Higher Education

DIPR/CP/552/Zen/2026-27

(Public Works Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Madhugiri
No:EE/PWD/Dvn/JE-Tender/2026-27 Dated: 27.04.2026
Invitation For Tender
Tender ref no:05/2026-27

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Madhugiri, invites tenders from eligible Tenderers, for the works. (Madhugiri and Pavagada Taluk) Approx. amount for the work is Rs 555.47Lakhs. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP portal of the Govt. of Karnataka Viz.http://KPPP.gov.in.Tenders must be submitted through KPPP portal on or before 29-05-2026 (up to 4.00 pm), Technical bids will be opened on 30-05-2026 after 4.15 Pm, Financial bid will be opened on 01-06-2026 after 4.15 Pm. Further any other information can be seen from the KPPP portal or can be had from the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Madhugiri

DIPR/TUM/57/KSMCA/20265-27

MSIL Mysore Sales International Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Administration Department
MSIL House, No. 36, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560 052.
Phone: 080-22264021/25
No.: MSIL/Admin/076/2026-27 Date: 08.05.2026

NOTIFICATION

The Final Selection List for the posts of **Assistant Manager(Accounts), Assistant Manager(EDP) and Clerk** has been published on the official website and is also displayed on the notice board of the Head Office.

Sd/- Chief Administrative Officer

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly Owned State Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Platform)

The Chief Engineer Ele., Bangalore Rural Area Zone, BESCOM, Bengaluru invites tender for the following through KPPP portal in two cover system. Enq No & Date: CEE/BRAZ/SEE(O)/AEE-1/Enq No.ET 01/2026-27 dated: 05-05-2026. **Particulars: Providing 81 numbers of temporary Security guard services (without gun) to the C,O&M, sub-divisions of Bangalore Rural circle and Kolar circle, BESCOM for a period of one year i.e from the date of 'Contract award' through an agency.** Approx Amount put to tender (Rs): **2,24,37,825/-.** Contract period: One year.
a) Bid document available on e-portal: **on or after 08-05-2026. b**) Pre bid meeting: **20-05-2026 @ 11:00 hrs, IST. c)** Last date for submission of queries: **21-05-2026 upto 17:00 hrs, IST. b)** Last date for submission of bid documents: **06-06-2026 upto 17:00 hrs, IST. e)** Date and time of opening technical bid: **08-06-2026 @ 17:00 hrs, IST.** EMD shall be paid: **Rs. 3,36,567/-.**
The Tender can be obtained through KPP portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **08-05-2026.** Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPPP help desk contact numbers **+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777** or e-mail at **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

Sd/-, Chief Engineer, Electy,
BRAZ, BESCOM,
Bangalore-44

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

NATIONAL SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Regional Office : Bangalore - 560 024. Phone : 080 - 2341 5816
(CIN No. : U 74899 DL 1963 GOI 003913)

No. : 1(1)/MM-LOG/NSC-BNG/2026-27 Date : 07-05-2026

NOTICE FOR INVITING E-TENDER

National Seeds Corporation Limited, Regional Office, Bangalore invites tender through E-tendering for **Annual Transport Rate Contract 2026-27** for Transportation of Seeds and Packing Materials from reputed Transporters. For further details visit our **Website : www.indiaseeds.com.** Tender Document can be downloaded from **Website : https://indiaseeds.enivida.com** from **08-05-2026, 13.00 Hrs. Last Date for Submission of Online Tender is 29-05-2026 till 15.00 Hrs.**

Sd/- Regional Manager,
National Seeds Corporation Ltd. Bangalore.

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti- 586201.
E-mail:dam_division@rediffmail.com
No: KBJNL/DDA/PB/TND/2026-27/178 Dated:06.05.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore the undersigned invites tender on Percentage basis from the eligible contractors for the work indents of **Two Cover** –I .No. **KBJNL/2026-27/CN/WORK_INDENT2792–332.58 Lakhs, The contractor can have access and submit e-tender from 07.05.2026 to 15.05.2026 up to 5-00 PM. Pre-bid meeting on Dt: 13.05.2026 at 11.00 am in the office of Executive Engineer, KBJNL Dam Safety Unit-2 Almatti, Cover-I opened on Dt: 18.05.2026 at 11-00AM & Cover-2, will be opened on 21.05.2026 at 11-00AM** at the Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti. For clarifications office of the undersigned may be contacted during office hours (Phone No. 08426-281027). Further information about electronic tendering can be had from kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- (T.V. Doddamani) Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/84/ಕೆಸ್ ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

Biz Bytes

Air India board meets amid war headwinds

NEW DELHI, PTI: Air India's board of directors held a meeting on Thursday amid the loss-making airline facing multiple headwinds, including high jet fuel prices, due to the West Asia conflict.

The board meeting took place at Air India's headquarters in Gurugram. It started at around 11.30 am and went on for over three hours, sources said. Specific details about the discussions could not be ascertained. Earlier, sources had said the airline's financials for 2025-26, cost-saving measures and selection of a new CEO were expected to be discussed at the meeting.

Rupee rises 27 paise to 94.22 against $

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee pared initial losses and settled for the day on a positive note, higher by 27 paise at 94.22 against the greenback on Thursday, as Brent crude and the US dollar index retreated from elevated levels.

Forex traders said Brent oil prices have fallen below $100 per barrel on a rise in investor risk appetite in global markets on hopes of peace between the United States and Iran.

InMobi buys AI platform MobileAction

NEW DELHI, PTI: Advertising tech firm InMobi has acquired San Francisco-based MobileAction for an undisclosed amount to strengthen its presence in Apple's iOS space, the company said on Thursday.

Founded in 2013, MobileAction is a pioneer in AI-driven app analytics and a trusted growth partner for app developers and marketers worldwide.

The company is best known for its expertise in Apple ads and App Store Optimisation, helping marketers improve discoverability and performance.

Real estate market set to touch $5.8 trillion by 2047: Report

Says 41 mn sq ft of new retail developments likely by 2028

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

As India advances towards the Viksit Bharat vision, the real estate sector is emerging as a critical driver of growth, productivity and job creation. The sector continues to be one of the largest contributors to employment generation, capital formation, and urban development, underpinning strong growth prospects and the potential to scale beyond $5.8 trillion by 2047. In 2025, the real estate market stood at $650 billion.

According to the 19th edition of the report titled 'Reimagining India's Real Estate Landscape', released by FICCI-KPMG, the Indian real estate sector contributes 7.3% to the national GDP, underlining its important role in economic development.

Over $16 billion has been unlocked through REITs and InvITs, reflecting a market moving decisively from fragmented private ownership towards institutionally-managed transparent platforms. In the first quarter of 2026 alone, foreign firms leased a record 9.1 million sq ft of office space across India's top-9 cities, driven by REIT expansion, rising GCC activity and greater use of flexible workplaces.

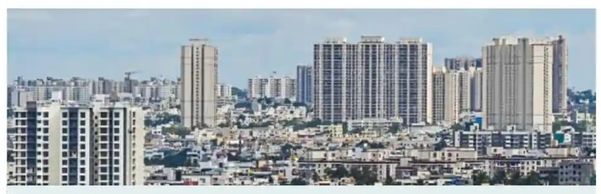
The report also highlighted the importance of AI in the real estate sector. AI adoption in India's corporate real estate sector moved from under 5% in 2023, to 91% in 2025. That did not happen gradually. It happened inside two years.

"India's real estate sector has earned its place as one of the most consequential growth stories in the world. Our task now is to build the digital discipline that sustains and scales that position," said Raj Menda, Chairman, FICCI Committee on Urban Development and Real Estate.

According to the report, housing demand is projected to reach 93 million units by 2036, driven by a strategic shift towards higher value realisation, led primarily by growing buyer preference for high-end, luxury and ultra-luxury housing segments.

The industrial and warehousing sector witnessed strong activity in the first half of 2025, with overall leasing reaching 20 million sq ft. Demand was largely driven by third-party logistics (3PL) providers, followed by the engineering and automobile sectors, with continued support from e-commerce.

In 2025, retail leasing activity across major cities amounted to nearly 8.9 million sq ft, supported by demand from fashion and apparel brands, direct-to-consumer (D2C) players and food and beverage operators.



Govt-led digital reforms shaping real estate sector

- **92.7%** Villages with computerised Records of Rights under the DILRMP
- **360 mn** Land parcels assigned geo-referenced ULPINs nation-wide
- **157** Digital land surveys initiated or completed across urban areas through NAKSHA
- **0.31 mn** Drone-based surveys completed
- **88.6%** Sub-registrar offices integrated with revenue systems under the NGDRS

DILRMP: Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme
ULPIN: Unique Land Parcel Identification Number
NGDRS: National Generic Document Registration System
NAKSHA: National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations

ACQUISITION PUSH

Coforge expects organic growth to be robust in FY27

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Mid-tier IT services firm Coforge expects organic growth to be very robust in FY27 and beyond as well. In December last year, the company announced the acquisition of Silicon-based AI-native firm Encora and recently, it officially announced the successful closure of its acquisition of Cigniti Technologies.

To a query on the contribution of acquired companies to its total revenue, the company's CEO and Executive Director Sudhir Singh told *DH*, "If you look at last year itself, we grew 29.2%. If I take out the acquired companies, we still grew more than 21%. So by a long stretch, almost most of the growth that we deliver every year is organic, not inorganic acquisition-led. And last year was the best example of that."

Sudhir Singh

The company's Q4 FY26 revenue stood at Rs 4,450.4 crore, up 30% YoY. In FY26, the company's revenue stood at Rs 16,402.7 crore, up 35.9% YoY in INR terms, 29.2% YoY in USD terms. The company's revenue in FY25 stood at Rs 12,073.3 crore.

When asked about AI-driven pricing pressure, Singh said there is always pressure on AI-driven pricing if it is an efficiency-based RFP, but there is next to no pressure on pricing of a deal if it is a transformation-based solution that is made.

At a press conference on Thursday, he said, May month marks the beginning of his 10th year at Coforge. "We were a $400-million firm when we started nine years ago. We hope to close this, the 10th year of our turnaround story, with the firm having grown almost seven times in just 10 years. During these last nine years, we have, as a team, delivered a revenue CAGR of over 21%, an EBIT CAGR of more than 24%, a PAT CAGR of more than 24%, and an EPS CAGR of more than 22%," he said, adding that the company is headed for an exceptionally good fiscal 2027.

Talking about AI deflation, the CEO said, "We believe that the true cost of AI code is an important concept to be understood in the context of the evolving AI landscape. The deflationary argument assumes that code generation is the entire job of a tech services firm. It is not. AI generated code is cheap to build, but it is expensive to maintain, secure, and own."

Mphasis lawsuit: Coforge denies all allegations, evaluates counterclaims

Coforge on Thursday denied all allegations of wrongdoing in the complaint filed by Bengaluru-headquartered Mphasis. In a statement, the company said it intends to vigorously defend itself and its employee in the matter.

Mphasis has filed a lawsuit against Coforge in a US court in March, alleging that the latter had hired its executives in violation of contract restrictions and gaining access to confidential client information.

In the statement, Coforge stated that it is evaluating counterclaims that they may assert in this matter.

Kharge looks at SpaceTech initiatives

BENGALURU, DHNS: IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge on Thursday chaired a high-level SpaceTech ecosystem consultation and discussed various issues. Leading startups, academia, industry and institutional stakeholders were part of the deliberations.

The consultation commenced with a comprehensive overview of the newly-launched Centre of Excellence for Space Technology, followed by deliberations on infrastructure, manufacturing, skilling, testing capabilities and data-driven opportunities within the emerging new-space economy.

A major focus area was the establishment of a Common Assembly, Integration and Testing facility in Karnataka, particularly around functional and environmental testing infrastructure for startups and manufacturers. The department noted that suitable land parcels around Bengaluru will be evaluated, with work expected to commence in the coming weeks towards establishing advanced testing infrastructure through a PPP model.

States asked to update GSDP base year to 2022-23

National accounts' base year was updated in February

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre on Thursday issued guidelines for states to change base year to 2022-23, from 2011-12 for compilation of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), in line with the national accounts data.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has come out with a uniform guideline for all states and Union Territories (UTs) for compilation of Gross State Value Added (GSVA) estimates. The GSDP is calculated by adding GSVA and net taxes on products.

The ministry said the "guideline will provide a standardised framework aimed at ensuring consistency, reliability and comparability of state-level estimates across all states/UTs".

At present, 34 states/UTs (except Lakshadweep and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu) compile GSDP estimates with base year 2011-12.

In the new series with base year 2022-23, MoSPI claimed that it is making concerted efforts to onboard all states/UTs, including Lakshadweep and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, to ensure complete national coverage and uniformity in compilation of regional accounts statistics.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) released the first quarterly and yearly data of national accounts with base year 2022-23 in February this year. In the new series, the GDP growth projection for 2025-26 has been revised upward to 7.6%, from 7.4% projected as per the 2011-12 series announced in January.

The MoSPI noted that the revision in base year "aims to more accurately capture the current structure of the economy by incorporating modern data sources and improved estimation practices with evolving international standards".

"In line with this change, states and UTs are required to adopt the new base year for compilation of GSDP, ensuring greater accuracy, consistency and comparability in assessing regional economic performance," it said.

GSDP is essential for measuring the economic performance of individual states. It serves as the primary indicator for analysing the sectoral growth in state and industrial output, enabling effective fiscal planning, tax collection and competitive development among states.

GSDP is extensively used by the Ministry of Finance, Finance Commission, CAG and other stakeholders for fiscal devolution, policy formulation, resource allocation, budgeting, performance assessment and inter-state comparisons.

The Finance Commission utilises GSDP estimates to assess the fiscal capacity and relative economic position of states, while recommending the distribution of central taxes among them.

Indicators such as "per capita GSDP distance" from the average of top-3 highest per capita GSDP states, are important criteria in determining tax devolution and promoting balanced regional development and fiscal equity.

Dabur Q4 profit up 15.75% to Rs 362 cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: Dabur India Ltd on Thursday reported a 15.75% YoY increase in its consolidated net profit to Rs 362 crore in the March quarter of FY2025-26, driven by a broad-based performance.

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 312.73 crore in the January-March quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing.

Revenue from operations jumped 7.34% to Rs 3,038.02 crore in Q4FY26, compared to Rs 2,830.14 crore in the corresponding quarter of the preceding fiscal.

The company's total expenses stood at Rs 2,738.37 crore in the March quarter, up 7% YoY.

Dabur India's total income rose 8.13% YoY to Rs 3,213.05 crore.

Skyroot Aerospace becomes first SpaceTech unicorn

BENGALURU, DHNS

Skyroot Aerospace has raised about $60 million at a pre-money valuation of $1.1 billion, making it the first SpaceTech unicorn. The round was co-led by Sherpalo Ventures and GIC, a global institutional investor, with participation from other existing Skyroot investors, including the founders of Greenko Group and Arkam Ventures. The founder of Sherpalo, Ram Shriram, a tech investor and a Board member of Alphabet Inc, will be joining Skyroot's Board.

Skyroot Aerospace founders Naga Bharath Daka and Pawan Kumar Chandana.

The new capital will enable Skyroot to establish a high cadence of Vikram-1 launches; scale up manufacturing; and develop Vikram-2 (a 1-tonne class launch vehicle powered by an advanced cryogenic stage), expanding the range of missions and customers it can serve. The funding round comes as Skyroot readies Vikram-1, the country's first privately-developed orbital rocket, for its maiden flight. Targeted to launch in the weeks following this announcement, Vikram-1 is designed to provide dedicated and customisable access to space for global satellite operators. The upcoming mission builds on the company's 2022 mission—when it launched the country's first privately-built rocket, Vikram-S.

"We at Skyroot are excited about the Vikram-1 launch, India's first private orbital rocket, marking a significant milestone both for India and the global space sector. This investment signals confidence from some of the world's most-reputed investors in Skyroot," Pawan Kumar Chandana, Co-founder and CEO, Skyroot Aerospace, said.

Skyroot said Vikram-1 is designed to deploy small satellites of up to 350 kg in Low Earth Orbit. Built with an all-carbon composite structure and powered by in-house developed solid and liquid propulsion systems, the rocket is engineered for rapid manufacturing and high launch cadence.

The company has raised nearly $100 million from marquee global investors, including GIC and Temasek.

Lt Gen AK Bhatt (retd), Director General, Indian Space Association (ISpA), said, "The milestone is far more than a financial achievement; it is the symbolic coming-of-age of India's space startup landscape and a powerful validation of the technological ingenuity, entrepreneurial ambition, and commercial agility that Indian companies now bring to the global space sector."

Karnataka State
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shimoga Division, Shimoga
No.EE/PWD/Smg/JE-2/IFT-06/2026-27 Dtd:04-05-2026
Short Term Tender Notification -2 Cover system
Tender invited thro' E-Procurement version-2 kppp.karnataka.gov.in for the below Indents by PWD Class-2 & 3above Contractors For needful information please contact Office P.No. 08182-274942 and Helpdesk Ph Nos. 080-25501216/ 080-25501227)
Tender documents down loading & submission dates:11-05-2026 to 18-05-2026
All Contractors : **1**. Sagara Taluk 7 Work
Tender documents down loading & submission dates:
Periods to complete the work is up to: 08 Months (Including Mansoon) If there any changes in published tenders it will be publishing in E-Procurement version-2 kppp.karnataka.gov.in Website only
Sd/- EE, PW Dept Division, Shimoga
DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/18/05/192

KARNATAKA STATE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
Karnataka One State, Many worlds
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
5th Floor, IndahanaBhavana, Race Course Road, Bangalore-560009
Phone No: 080-42775575 Fax: (080) 42775589, Website:www.kstdc.co
No:KSTDC/PROC/01/2026-27/ Date: 07.05.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation Limited, Bengaluru invites tender from interested bidders for the following:

Tender No.	Description	Last Date & Time for Bid Submission
KSTDC/ 2026-27/ IND0038/ Call 2	Supply of Kitchen Utensils and Other Items for KSTDC Mayura Hotels.	**14.05.2026 at 16.30 hrs**

The detailed tender documents are available in the website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For any further clarifications contact **9240214000/01, Email support: support@eprochelpdesk.com**
Sd/- General Manager (Admin), Tender Inviting Authority, KSTDC.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BENGALURU URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
O/o Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor,
Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road,
Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple), Bengaluru 560070.
Phone No: 080-26716046 Website: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
No.EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-1/06/2026-27 Dated: 06.05.2026
KPPP Tender Notice (Two Cover System) TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tenders are invited through KPPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For **MLA Grants** Works. The work details can obtained from the KPPP Web Site The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before Dated:25.05.2026 upto 4.00 pm. Further details can be obtained from web site at **http://www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Urban Dist, Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/557/SSC/2026-27

Department of Technical Education
Palace Road, Bangalore-560001 Ph: 080-2220 0291.
NO: DTE-ADMI0EST(3)/7/2025-26 Dated: 06/05/2026
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
The Commissioner, Department of Collegiate and Technical Education, Bengaluru, hereby invites bids from eligible and interested bidders through the e-procurement system under the Two-Cover Bid System for the following works/services:
1. Providing housekeeping, cleanliness, and maintenance services for the buildings and premises of the Directorate of Technical Education, Bengaluru.
2. Supply of Group-D personnel on an outsourcing basis through manpower agencies for Government Polytechnics and Engineering Colleges as required.

Interested bidders may obtain the tender documents and detailed information through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.
Tender Schedules are as below

Item Name	Date of floating tender in KPP portal	Date and time of pre-bid meeting	Last date and time for bidding through KPP portal
Tender no: DTE/2025-26/ SE0004 - Call 2 Housekeeping service (with materials) & Maintenance	05.05.2026	08.05.2026 at 12.30 p.m.	13.05.2026 at 5.30 p.m.
Tender no: DTE/2026-27/SE0006 Supply of Group-D personnel on an outsourcing	05.05.2026	22.05.2026 at 12.00 p.m.	05.06.2026 at 5.29 p.m.

The Department reserves the right to cancel or reject the tenders without any notification. Details in this regard may be obtained in the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/- Director, Department of Technical Education.
DIPR/CP/RO/548/AAPL/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
Executive Engineer
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Belagavi
No.PRE/BD/PB-1/Tender-05/2026-27/524 Date: 06-05-2026
Tender Invited (E- Procurement)
Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Belagavi hereby invited tender from Registered Contractors for the Item rates throughkpppPortal.There are total **18 (26304, 26239, 25441/call-4, 25437/call-4, 25432/call-4, 26159/call-2, 26167/call-2, 26166/call-2, 26147, 26149, 26137, 26158/call-2, 26163/call-2, 26100/call-2, 26153, 26125, 26123/call-2, 26112/call-2**) work have been called, Standard OSF tender documents KW-3 for price of Highest and Lowest Estimated Cost **Rs. 100.00 Lakhs** and **Rs. 5.50 Lakh** respectively and also Highest and Lowest EMD has As Per Eprocurement for each work. The last date for Submission of any Quarries is **16-05-2026 17:28 PM,** the last date for submission of tender bid is on **16-05-2026 17:28 PM.** Opening of technical bid is on **18-0-2026 11-00 AM** and Expected Financial bid will be opened on **18-05-2026 11:30 AM.** For any other information/clarifications please contact the below signed office, and also search internet for kppp-Portal website **http://kppp-proc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Belagavi
DIPR/BELAGAVI/205/ 2026-27/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಕಂಪನಿ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಸ್ವಾಮ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ)
(CIN-UO4010KA2002SGC030438)
ಅಂತಿಮ ಮರುಕರೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಶ್ರೀ. ಎ. **ಮಂಜು, ಕಿರಿಯ ಪವರ್‌ಮ್ಯಾನ್,** ಆದ ನೀವು ಟಾಸ್ಕರ್ ಟೌನ್ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಪಾಲನಾ ಘಟಕ, 2 ನೇ ಪೂರ್ವ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಿರಿಯ ಪವರ್‌ಮ್ಯಾನ್ ಹುದ್ದೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಯಾವುದೇ ರಜೆಯ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ನೀಡದೇ, **ಮೇಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಅನುಮತಿ/ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ಬಾರದೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.03.2021 ರಿಂದ ಇಲ್ಲಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ಗೈರು ಹಾಜರಾಗಿ ದುರ್ನಡತೆ ಎಸಗಿರುತ್ತೀರಿ.** ಇದರಿಂದ ಕಂಪನಿಯ ದೈನಂದಿನ ಕೆಲಸ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಡಚಣೆಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಕಾನಿಇಂ(ವಿ)/ಶಿನವಿ/ಲೆ/ಸ.ಲೆ/ಕ–22/2025–26/ 7900/02.01.2026 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಅಂತಿಮ ಮರು ಕರೆ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ನಿಮ್ಮ ವಿಳಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ತುರ್ತು/ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅಂಚೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಕಳುಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ತಾವು ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಿಯೂ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾಜರಾಗಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಕಾನಿಇಂ(ವಿ)/ಶಿನವಿ/ಲೆ/ಸ.ಲೆ/ ಹಿಸ–1/ಕ–22/2025–26/181–85/07.04.2026 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಆರೋಪ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ನಿಮ್ಮ ವಿಳಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ತುರ್ತು/ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅಂಚೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಕಳುಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಹಾಗೂ ಮುದ್ರಾಂ ಕಳುಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ತಾವು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಿಯೂ ಇದುವರೆಗೂ ತಾವು ಈ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾಜರಾಗಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ಗೈರು ಹಾಜರಿಗೆ ಸಮಂಜಸವಾದ ಕಾರಣದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಈ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ **15 ದಿನಗಳ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ** ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಸಹಿದಾರರ ಮುಂದೆ ಸಮಕ್ಷಮ ಹಾಜರಾಗತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ತಪ್ಪಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಅಂತಿಮ ಕರೆಯೋಲೆ ಪತ್ರವೆಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿ ಕವಿಪ್ರನಿನಿ ನೌಕರರ (ವ.ಶಿ.ನಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇ) ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು 1987 ರ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಯ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದತ್ತವಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಚಲಾಯಿಸಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪರಿಹಾರ ನೀಡದೆ ನಿಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಬೆವಿಕಂ ಸೇವೆಯಿಂದ ವಜಾಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್(ವಿ),
ಕಾ ಮತ್ತು ಪಾ ಶಿವಾಜಿನಗರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆವಿಕಂ
ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸಂಬಂಧಿತ ದೂರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಿ: 1912
ಬೆಸ್ಕಾಂ ಮಿತ್ರ Mobile App ಅನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ

Deepika Kumari

Women upset Korea to assure India's first medal

SHANGHAI, PTI: India endured a mixed day at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 as the women's recurve team assured the country's first medal with a stunning semifinal win over record 10-time Olympic champion South Korea but the men's team suffered a disappointing exit after a shock defeat against Bangladesh here Thursday.

India's campaign also ended in the mixed team event where the duo of Dhiraj Bommadevara and Ankita Bhakat lost to Brazil in the second round.

The women's team of seasoned Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat and teenager Kumkum Mohod defeated a new-look Korean side 5-1 in the semifinals to set up a gold medal clash against second seed China on Sunday.

But there was embarrassment for the men's recurve team as veteran Tarundeep Rai, Dhiraj Bommadevara and Yashdeep Bhoge failed to win a single set in a below-par 2-6 defeat to Bangladesh.

The women's team maintained composure throughout a demanding day in which they won three consecutive matches.

The fourth-seeded Indians started strongly in the semifinal, shooting four 10s from six arrows and dropping just two points to take the opening set with a superb 58. The Koreans looked unsettled and managed only 55.

IOC lifts ban on Belarus; Russia still barred

LAUSANNE, AFP: The IOC on Thursday lifted its restrictions on Belarusian athletes competing in the Olympics, although restrictions on Russian athletes remain in place.

Competitors from Russia and Belarus had been banned from international competition following Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, although some were permitted to compete as neutrals.

Russians will still only be able to compete under the neutral banner, on an individual basis, and only if they have not actively supported the conflict.

The IOC executive board released a statement saying that it "no longer recommends any restrictions on the participation of Belarusian athletes, including teams".

BUDTTA camp from May 18

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru Urban District Table Tennis Association (BUDTTA) will conduct a free coaching camp for beginners and intermediate players from May 18 to 30 at KTTA TT Hall at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium.

The coaching camp will be conducted for boys and girls aged between 6 to 19. The last date for registration is May 15. For more information, interested players can contact TS Ram Kumar 9449466913.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL: Delhi Capitals vs Kolkata Knight Riders **(7:30 pm). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

ISL: SC Delhi vs Odisha FC **(5:00 pm). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, FanCode.**

IFL: Diamond Harbour FC vs. Rajasthan United FC **(6:30 pm). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

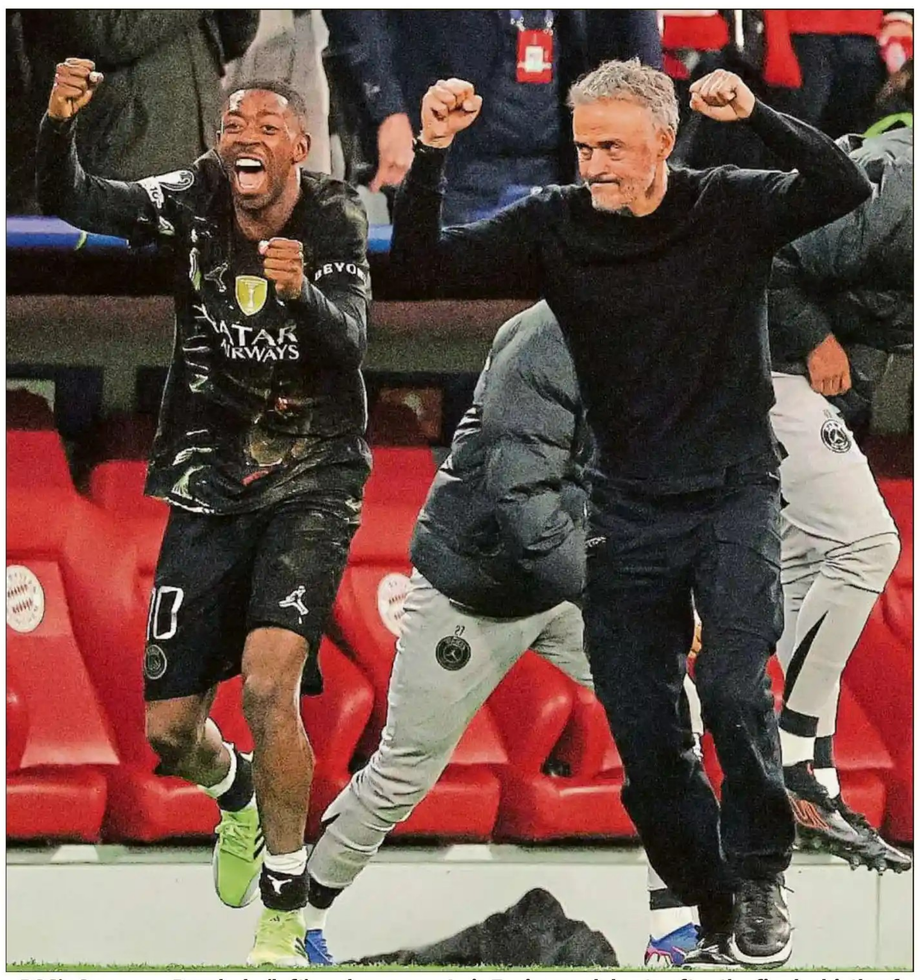
TENNIS

ATP Masters: Rome Masters Round of 64 **(5:30 pm). LIVE** on **FanCode**.

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Parisians shut down Bayern goal machinery

Dembele strike enough to take defending champs into final



PSG's Ousmane Dembele (left) and manager Luis Enrique celebrate after the final whistle of their match against Bayern Munich in Champions League semifinal on Wednesday. AFP

MUNICH, AFP

Holders Paris Saint-Germain set up a Champions League final against Arsenal after a 1-1 second-leg draw at Bayern Munich secured a 6-5 aggregate victory on Wednesday.

PSG exploded on the counter less than three minutes in and Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembele put Luis Enrique's visitors ahead on the night and two goals up in the tie.

PSG largely succeeded in subduing Bayern's attacking threat, despite Harry Kane's stoppage-time goal.

On their return to Munich's Allianz Arena, the scene of their greatest triumph against Inter Milan in last year's final, PSG once again emphasised their excellence in a competition they coveted without success for so long.

The French giants will be favourites to lift the trophy for a second successive season when they face Premier League leaders Arsenal on May 30 in Budapest.

The French giants are hoping to become only the second back-to-back winners since 1990, after Real Madrid.

Bayern were angered by some first-half refereeing decisions but were largely toothless in attack.

The six-time European champions have still not reached the final since beating PSG in the 2020 showpiece in Lisbon.

Both sides were playing their 52nd match of the season in all competitions -- not even counting last summer's Club World Cup -- but only the hosts looked weary.

So dangerous in the first leg, Bayern were surprisingly stodgy in attack, with Michael Olise in particular having an off night.

In the midst of a record-breaking season, Bayern's fourth defeat in all competitions will sting for a club set to wonder what might have been.

With Bayern already Bundesliga champions and PSG also on track for the Ligue 1 title, both sides heavily rotated their line-ups in the weekend's league fixtures.

But both teams only made one change to their starting XIs compared to last week's spectacle in Paris. Only PSG's was forced, with Fabian Ruiz in for the injured Achraf Hakimi.

The high-octane first leg, won 5-4 by PSG, was widely lauded as among the best matches in the competition's history and Wednesday's game offered more of the same early.

Ruiz, starting his first European match since January, set Khvicha Kvaratskhelia down the left flank with an excellent through ball.

The Georgian latched onto the pass, blazed past his marker before cutting back for the perfectly placed Dembele to slam home.

Bayern conceded after just 36 seconds against Real Madrid in the quarter-finals and fought back to win but seemed stunned by the early goal this time around.

Olise, Kane and Joshua Kimmich all mislaid passes in the opening half-hour, ending promising attacks.

Bayern surrounded referee Joao Pinheiro claiming a penalty on the half-hour mark when Vitinha's clearance hit Joao Neves's outstretched arm in the box, but their appeals were waved away.

The home players had already been left incensed when PSG full-back Nuno Mendes was not shown a second yellow card for handball.

Result: Bayern Munich: 1 (Harry Kane 90+4th) lt to PSG: 1 (Ousmane Dembele 3rd) on aggregate 5-6.

Kickstart FC end East Bengal's 'invincible' run

Babysana, Emem rally Bengaluru side to victory

Kickstart FC's Babysana Devi scored the winning goal against East Bengal in the Indian Women's League on Wednesday. KICKSTART FC

BENGALURU, DHNS

Kickstart FC ended the "invincible" domestic run of East Bengal as the Bengaluru-based club rallied to a 2-1 victory to shock the Kolkata giants in their own backyard in the Indian Women's League on Wednesday.

Kickstart's midfielder Babysana Devi scored the winning goal in the second half (58th minute) after her Nigerian team-mate Essien responded to East Bengal's early goal in the 16th minute.

The result didn't just lift Kickstart, who were once battling relegation, to the fifth spot on the points table but also ended a 15-month unbeaten run for the defending champions in the IWL. East Bengal won 18 league matches during the period while drawing one.

East Bengal, however, started with their usual dominance in their home ground as their top-scorer Fazil Ikwaput put them ahead in the seventh minute following a combination play with Resty Nanziri.

However, what appeared to be smooth sailing for East Bengal took a wrong turn when a comical mix-up between goalkeeper Elangbam Panthoi Chanu and experienced defender Ashalata Devi allowed an alert Ememto put the ball into an empty net and restore parity.

Heavy rain and thunderstorms soon followed and brought the match to a halt for an hour at the East Bengal Ground. Upon resumption, the tricky wet field conditions affected the flow of the ball movement, making it difficult for either side to execute their plans.

The winning goal arrived two minutes before the hour mark saw a nice loose ball following a promising buildup for Babysana right outside the box and the midfielder responded with a powerful volley past the goalkeeper.

"I'm proud I could help my team with the winning goal. To score against one of India's best goalkeepers in such an intense game makes this moment unforgettable," Babysana told *DH*.

Result: East Bengal: 1 (Fazil Ikwaput 7th) lt to Kickstart FC: 2 (Ememe Essien 16th, Babysana Devi 58th).

WFI reiterates eligibility criteria, Vinesh Asiad hopes end

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Vinesh Phogat's return to wrestling on May 10 is also in doubt over her compliance with WADA's rule.

Wrestling Federation of India announced that it will host the trials for the Asian Games on May 30 and 31 in New Delhi and Lucknow respectively, while reiterating its stance of only allowing Senior Nationals and Federation Cup medallists to compete in the event.

This effectively once again shuts the door on decorated wrestler-turned-politician Vinesh Phogat, who came out of her retirement last year and is hoping for a comeback at the National Ranking Series in Gonda, UP, on May 10.

DH reported in March that the 31-year-old wrestler won't be eligible for competing in the Asiad trials as the WFI circular stated similar eligibility conditions. However, with the announcement of the National Ranking Series in Gonda, WFI was mulling the idea of allowing additional entries to medallists from the event.

However, the recent circular for the trials put any such hopes for Vinesh to rest.

The women's trials will take place in New Delhi on May 30 with other leading names such as Antim Panghal, among others, expected to participate. The men's trials, including Greco-Roman, will take place the next day in Lucknow with the likes of Aman Sehrawat in attendance.

Earlier Vinesh, who received a warning notice from the International Testing Agency for her first whereabouts failure last December, expressed her concerns that WFI may take steps to block her possible Asiad participation while also fearing a threat to her life during the upcoming event in Gonda.

Her eligibility to return to competitive wrestling remains also in doubt now due to ambiguity over her compliance with the World Anti-Doping Agency's mandatory six-month notice rule for athletes coming out of retirement.

Siddharth steers Blue Diamond Cricketers home

BENGALURU, DHNS: Siddharth Ram Narayan registered an unbeaten hundred while Yeshwanth K notched up a big fifty as Blue Diamond Cricketers thrashed Wadiyar Cricket Club by 191 runs in the KSCA Under-16 Inter-Club cricket tournament here.

LOCAL CRICKET

Batting first and riding on contributions from Siddharth (110) and Yeshwanth (94), Blue Diamond Cricketers posted a 361/6 in 50 overs.

After being sent on a leather hunt earlier, Wadiyar Cricket Club were bowled out for a paltry 172 in 36.2 overs even as Vignesh Srikanth waged a lone battle with knock of 90 runs.

Brief scores: Blue Diamond Cricketers: 361/6 in 50 overs (Yeshwanth K 94, Tambrahalli Samanyu 42, Chetas H 33, Siddharth Ram Narayan 110 n.o., Vihaan Darshan Payappanavar 31, Yashas Reddi Bongu 3-48) bt Wadiyar Cricket Club: 172 all out in 36.2 overs (Yuvaraj D Kumar 29, Sai Vignesh Srikanth 90, Atharv Vilas Kabugade 3-41, Siddharth Ram Narayan 2-24).

Jayanagar United Cricketers : 229 all out in 47.2 overs (Sudarshan Thapa 31, Ayan Mukherjee 36, Samarth Gautam Rayabagi 55 n.o.; Siddharth Kaushal Sarda 2-46, Eric Rupreo 2-26) bt Coles Cricket Club: 190 all out in 42 overs (Agam Jot Singh 51, Jayanth Raghu Gowda 44, Ayushmaan Vaidhyanathan Vadula 33 n.o.; Adhyay 2-48, Soumith Kongara 2-35, Ramnath Nayak 4-24).

Bharath Cricket Club: 131 all out in 42 overs (Aniketh Kaushik Kundapur 30, Gaurav Jeevan 43 n.o.; Krishna 5-15, Saurjyesh Das 4-16) lt Bangalore Sports Club: 132/2 in 24.4 overs (Aditya Kumar A 56, Tanshh Krishna M 65; Kaushik Neergunda 2-54).

Vultures: 287/7 in 50 overs (Aaryan Nagesh 83, Akhieera Allan W 46, Karun S Hugar 63, Diganth NR 43; Nandisha SP 2-46) bt Young Cricketers (1): 133 all out in 36.3 overs (Vipin S 42; Arjun Balu 2-29, Parinith K 2-22, Aaryan N 3-17).

South End: 248/7 in 50 overs (Yelavalli Umar Ahil 66, Harshith Raja 51, S Dhavan Srijan 41, Pradyumna Boyapati 2-44) lt to Visweswarapuram Cricket Club (2): 251/8 in 44.4 overs (Ruchitaksh Indrekar 120, Ved Mishra 34, Amritansh Vikram Singh 36; Arya Naveen 3-31, Kurra Venkat Akiranandhan 4-32).

Mathikere Cricket Club: 181 all out in 48 overs (Veer Vishal Bakare 26, Bhuvan Sachish Manohar 25 n.o., Skanda Subbaiah 3-47, Lalitaditya G 4-20) lt to Century Cricketers: 182/3 in 31.1 overs (Hrithvik Shetty 100 n.o.; Hritvik Mishra 31).

Vijaya Cricket Club: 414/8 in 50 overs (Hruthik Kumar 43, Saad Rayyan Khan 104, Panshul Sharma 38, Yuvaan Porwal 49, Krishna Rajput 47; Saatvik Sanikop 2-87, Dishan R 2-49) bt Jolly Cricketers: 55 all out in 16 overs (Prayag Bijesh 4-9, Paarth Madan 3-11).

City Cricketers (2): 254 all out in 42.5 overs (Parthaan R 37, Hithvik Reddy KV 40, Sahas N P 76, Yashas Reddy K 34; Gagan Gowda P 3-42, Mohammed Sufiyan Pasha 3-47) bt Merchants (1) : 151 all out in 38.1 overs (Deekshith Gowda Sr 38, Yashvardhan Patro 25; Satvik K 4-37, Hithvik Reddy KV 3-20).

Young Lions Club: 93 all out in 24 overs (Deekshith Gowda HD 26, Karthik J 3-19, Krishna KA 5-45, Ishaanth Y 2-4) lt to The Bangalore Cricketers: 94/2 in 17 overs (Navaneeth Kothapalli 54 n.o.; Rahul Jena 2-24).

HI announces U-18 squads for Australia series

BHOPAL, PTI: Hockey India on Thursday announced 24-member Indian U-18 Men's and Women's squads for the upcoming home series against Australia from May 15 to 20.

The four-match series, to be played at SAI Bhopal, is a critical part of the teams' preparations for the Men's and Women's U-18 Asia Cup to be held at Kakamigahara, Japan, from May 29-June 6.

The squad members were selected after a week of rigorous evaluation during the national coaching camp, where the initial group of 42 players was narrowed down based on match fitness and tactical adaptability.

U-18: Men: Goalkeepers: Sawan Kumar, Ayush Rajak, Vishal Bada; **Defenders:** Ansh Bahutra, Ashish Tani Purti, Arman Soreng, Deepakprakash Toppo, Karan Gautam, Karan Dhanuk; **Midfielders:** Premchand Soy, Rahul Yadav, Varinder Singh, Romit Pal, Arjandeep Singh, Gursimranpreet Singh, Arshdip Singh, Avi Manikpuri; **Forwards:** Akash Deep, Ketan Kushwaha (Captain), Shahrukh Ali, Gazee Khan, Prahalad Rajbhar, Siddharth Ben, Jaysan Kandulna

Women: Goalkeepers: Mahak Parihar, Harry, Khili Kumari; **Defenders:** Sugan Sanga, Nilam Topno, Rubina Baxla, Kiran Ekka, Divya Yadav, Sulochani; **Midfielders:** Shruti Kumari, Diya, Harshita, Rashmeen Kaur, Laminganbi Akoijam, Nancy Saroha, Tongbram Lanchenbi Devi, Sneha Davde; **Forwards:** Nousheen Naz, Sweety Kujur (Captain), Priyanka Minz, Sandeepa Kumari, Nammi Geetashree, Princess Priya Ekka, Pushpa Manjhi.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CEE/Tr(Op)Z/BGKT/SEE (O)/26-27/AEE-1/2552-63 Dated : 06.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites tenders on electronic mode for the following works including supply of equipments / materials, erection, civil works, testing and commissioning for the following Bid Enquiry No's.

1) KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STN-H72/26-27/Naragund/C7 Tender No: KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3569 for Providing additional 1x10MVA 110/11kV Transformer at 110/11kV **Naragund** sub-station in Naragund Taluk, Gadag District on **Partial Turn Key Basis.**

2) KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STN-H73/26-27/Alnavar/C6 Tender No: KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3568 for Providing additional 1x10MVA 110/11kV Transformer at 110/33/11kV **Alnavar** sub-station in **Alnavar** Taluk, Dharwad District on **Partial Turn Key Basis.**

3) KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STN-H74/26-27/Shedbala/C7 Tender No: KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3633 for Providing additional 1X10MVA, 110/11kV Transformer at 110kV **Shedbal**a sub-station in Dharwad Taluk and Dharwad district on **Partial Turn Key Basis.**

4) KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STN-H75/26-27/Tumminakatti/C6 Tender No: KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3634 for Providing additional 1X10MVA, 110/11kV Transformer at 110kV **Tumminakatti** sub-station in Rattihalli Taluk, Haveri district on **Partial Turn Key Basis.**

5) KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STN-H76/26-27/Basavanakatti/C6 Tender No: KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3635 for Providing Spare 1X10MVA, 110/11kV Transformer at 110kV **Basavanakatti** sub-station in Haveri taluk, Haveri district on **Partial Turn Key Basis.**

6) KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STN-H77/26-27/Singataluru/C2 Tender No: KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3636 for Providing additional 1x10MVA, 110/33kV Transformer along with construction of 2 no's. of 33kV TBs at 110kV at **110kV Singataluru sub-station** in Mundargi taluk, Gadag District on **Partial Turn Key Basis.**

7) KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STN-H79/26-27/Hebballi Tender No: KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3676 for Providing additional 1x10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer at 110/11kV S/s **Hebballi** sub-station in Dharwad Taluk and District on **Partial Turn Key Basis.**

8) KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STN-H78/26-27/Kawalwada/C2 Tender No: KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3637 for Providing LILO arrangement with metering & protection to 110kV NK-1 & NK-2 lines at 110kV **Kawalwada** sub- station in Uttara Kannada District on **TTK basis**

9) KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110kV/STNDR-01/26-27/Ghatnatti Tender No: KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3612 for Augmentation of 2x10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformers by 2x20MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformers at 110/11kV **Ghatanatti** sub-station in Athani Taluk, Belagavi District on **Partial Turnkey Basis. Reserved for Category-IIA**

10) KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110kV/STNDR-02/26-27/Mamadapura Tender No: KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3613 for Replacement of 1X10MVA 110/11kV Power Transformer by 1X20MVA, 110/11KV Power Transformer without switchgear at 110KV **Mamadapur**a sub-station in Gokak Taluk, Belagavi District on **Partial Turnkey Basis. Reserved for SC Category**

11) KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110kV/STNDR-03/26-27/Salahalli11kV Tender No: KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3614 for Replacement of 1x10MVA,110/11kV Power Transformer by 1x20MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer with providing additional switchgears at **110kV Salahalli** sub-station in Ramdurga Taluk Belagavi District on **Partial Turnkey Basis.**

12) KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110kV/STNDR-04/26-27/Munavalli Tender No: KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3615 for Replacement of 1x10MVA,110/11kV Power Transformer by 1x20MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer at 110/33/11kV **Munavalli** sub-station in Soundatti Taluk & Belagavi District on **Partial Turnkey Basis.**

13) KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110kV/STNDR-05/26-27/Ghataprabha Tender No: KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3616 for Replacement of 1x10MVA,110/11kV Power Transformer by 1x20MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer at **110kV Ghataprabha** sub-station in Gokak Taluk & Belagavi District on **Partial Turnkey Basis. Reserved for ST Category**

14) KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110kV/STNDR-06/26-27/Ankali Tender No: KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3617 for Replacement of 1x10MVA,110/11kV Power Transformer by 1x20MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer at **110kV Ankali** sub-station in Chikkodi Taluk & Belagavi District on **Partial Turnkey Basis. Reserved for Category -IIA**

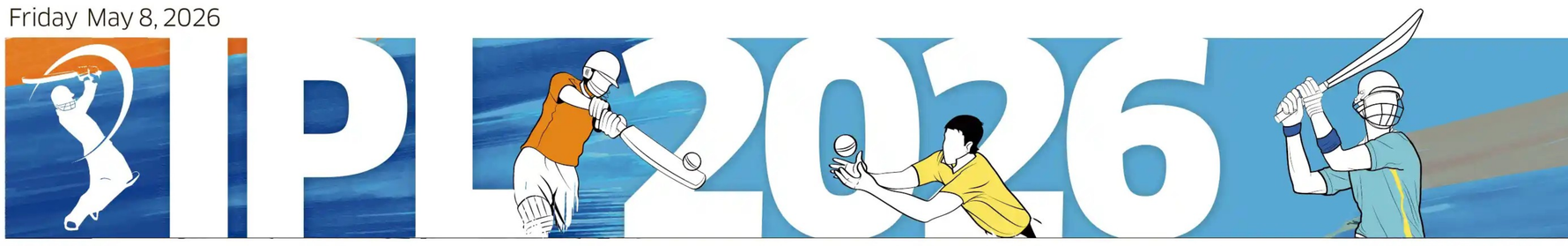
15) KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110kV/STNDR-07/26-27/Aratagal Tender No: KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3618 for Augmentation of 1x10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer by 1x20MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer at **110/11KV Aratagal** sub-station in Soundatti Taluk & Belagavi District on **Partial Turnkey Basis.**

16) KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110kV/STNDR-08/26-27/Salahalli33kv Tender No: KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3619 for Augmentation of 1x10MVA, 110/33kV Power Transformer by 1x20MVA, 110/33kV Power Transformer at **110/33-11KV Salahalli** sub-station in Ramadurga Taluk & Belagavi District on **Partial Turnkey Basis.**

17) KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110kV/STNDR-09/26-27/Soundatti Tender No: KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3620/CALL-2 for Replacement of 1x10MVA,110/33kV Power Transformer by 1x20MVA, 110/33kV Power Transformer at 110kV **Soundatti** sub-station in Soundatti Taluk & Belagavi District on **Partial Turnkey Basis. Reserved for ST Category**

The tenders will be received through e-procurement portal only. The details regarding participation in the E-Procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **08.05.2026.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele.),
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, 110KV Sub-station Premises , Navanagar, Bagalkote-587103.



10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

"The reality is we have got four games to win. So if we do that, then we are putting ourselves in a good position.

DAVID MILLER, DC BATTER

LSG repel Challengers' late charge

Marsh, Prince shine in Lucknow's nervy 9-run win

LUCKNOW, PTI

Mitchell Marsh slammed a superb 111 off 56 balls as bottom-placed Lucknow Super Giants snapped a six-match losing streak with a nine-run DLS victory over Royal Challengers Bengaluru in a rain-curtailed IPL match here on Thursday.

Sent in to bat, Marsh smashed nine fours and as many sixes, adding 95 off 56 balls with Arshin Kulkarni (17) and 70 off 41 balls with Nicholas Pooran (38) to single-handedly steer LSG to 209 for 3.

Skipper Rishabh Pant also made a quickfire 10-ball 32 not out.

However, multiple rain interruptions reduced the match to a 19-over a side affair, setting RCB a DLS Target of 213.

Chasing the total, RCB were limited to 203 for six with Prince Yadav (3/33) and Shahbaz Ahmed (2/33) sharing wickets for LSG.

Skipper Rajat Patidar was the highest scorer for RCB with a 31-ball 61.

For RCB, Krunal Pandya (1/31) and Josh Hazlewood (1/49) claimed a wicket each.

Earlier, Marsh put on a breathtaking display of power-hitting, first stitching a 95-run opening stand with Arshin Kulkarni (17) to lay the platform for LSG's explosive start, before adding another 70 runs with Pooran.

SCOREBOARD

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS: Mitchell Marsh c Bethell b Hazlewood 111, Arshin Kulkarni c Patidar b Krunal 17, Nicholas Pooran c Krunal b Dar 38, Rishabh Pant (not out) 32, Aiden Markram (not out) 1. Extras (LB-5, W-5) 10. **TOTAL (for 3 wkts, 19 overs) 209.**

Fall of wickets: 1-95, 2-165, 3-194.

Bowling: Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4-0-34-0, Josh Hazlewood 4-0-49-1, Krunal Pandya 4-0-31-1, Rasikh Dar 4-0-53-1, Suyash Sharma 2-0-21-0, Romario Shepherd 1-0-16-0.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BENGALURU (Target: 213): Jacob Bethell c Prince b Shami 4, Virat Kohli b Prince 0, Devdutt Padikkal c&b Prince 34, Rajat Patidar c Markram b Shahbaz 61, Jitesh Sharma c Pant b Prince 1, Tim David c Rathi b Shahbaz 40, Krunal Pandya (not out) 28, Romario Shepherd (not out) 23. Extras (LB-4, W-8) 12. **TOTAL (for 6 wkts, 19 overs) 203.**

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-9, 3-104, 4-106, 5-112, 6-158.

Bowling: Mohammed Shami 4-0-33-1, Prince Yadav 4-0-33-3, Mayank Yadav 4-0-50-0, Digvesh Rathi 4-0-50-0, Shahbaz Ahmed 3-0-33-2.

Result: LSG won by 9 runs via DLS method.

PoM: Mitchell Marsh.

RCB's next match: Vs Mumbai Indians (May 10, Raipur).

Lucknow Super Giants' Mitchell Marsh bludgeons one to the boundary during his 56-ball 111 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the Ekana Stadium on Thursday. PTI

The Australian opener looked ominous from the outset, unleashing a barrage of clean strikes all around the ground. His 56-ball knock was laced with nine fours and as many sixes, most of which came in the Powerplay.

With LSG's playoff hopes hanging by a thread, Marsh came out all guns blazing after being asked to bat, taking apart the RCB attack with ruthless aggression.

Josh Hazlewood bore the brunt of the early carnage as Marsh launched two towering sixes straight over his head before following it up with three boundaries in the pacer's next over.

Marsh's attack forced RCB to introduce Rasikh Dar as early as the fifth over, but the move did little to stem the flow of runs.

The burly Australian continued his onslaught, hammering back-to-back sixes before adding a boundary for good measure. He raced to his fastest IPL fifty, reaching the milestone in just 20 balls, and dominated the scoring as LSG raced to 95/0 in nine overs.

However, LSG's momentum was briefly disrupted by a 30-minute rain interruption, after which Krunal Pandya ended Kulkarni's scratchy stay at the crease.

New batter Pooran wasted no time as he crunched Rasikh for back-to-back boundaries.

Capitals face stern Varun-Narine test

Delhi in must-win territory with eight points in 10 games

LIVE 7:30 PM

NEW DELHI, PTI

Unable to negotiate tricky batting tracks or defend big totals on belters, there seems no comfort even on home turf for Delhi Capitals when they take on Kolkata Knight Riders in a must-win IPL game here on Friday.

Delhi Capitals, currently in seventh position with eight points from 10 games, need to win all four of their remaining games to reach 16 points and sneak into the playoffs.

The eighth-placed KKR need to win all five of their remaining matches to leapfrog to 17 points in order to remain relevant.

In this backdrop, what becomes important is the surface on which DC will play the game.

It is understood that to counter the threat of spin twins Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy, Capitals is likely to opt for a batting belter and will be playing on Pitch No.6, the track on which they scored 264 but failed to defend against Punjab Kings.

The reason for picking such a track is lack of faith in the batting line-up which was reduced to 9 for 6 on a slightly seaming surface against the Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

On a slowish surface where the ball gripped, the DC batters failed to come to terms with Rashid Khan of Gujarat Titans, and Akeal Hosein and Noor Ahmed of the Chennai Super Kings.

Narine (economy rate of 6.80) and Varun (8.88) can make life miserable for the likes of Pathum Nissanka, Sameer Rizvi, and Karun Nair to name a few.

Making things worse for Delhi is premier spinner Kuldeep Yadav (10 matches, 7 wickets at ER 10.36), who is going through his worst IPL season right now.

Sunil Narine, who boasts an economy rate of just 6.80 this season, could cause a few problems to the Delhi Capitals' batters. AFP FILE PHOTO

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Sunrisers Hyderabad	11	7	4	0	14	0.737
Punjab Kings	10	6	3	1	13	0.571
Royal Challengers	10	6	4	0	12	1.234
Rajasthan Royals	10	6	4	0	12	0.510
Gujarat Titans	10	6	4	0	12	-0.147
Chennai Super Kings	10	5	5	0	10	0.151
Delhi Capitals	10	4	6	0	8	-0.949
Kolkata Knight Riders	9	3	5	1	7	-0.539
Mumbai Indians	10	3	7	0	6	-0.649
Lucknow Super Giants	10	3	7	0	6	-0.934

It was untenable to have IPL final in Bengaluru, says Dhumal

BENGALURU, DHNS

Small amount of tickets for the general public and issues surrounding the Chinnaswamy Stadium made it "untenable" to have this edition's IPL final in Bengaluru, said league chairman Arun Dhumal on Thursday, a day after the BCCI decided to shift the 2026 finale to Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Dharamsala (Qualifier 1) and New Chandigarh (Eliminator and Qualifier 2) will host the three playoffs.

"See ideally it should have been Bengaluru (by virtue of Royal Challengers being the defending champions)," Dhumal told PTI. "We checked up with KSCA. Because what happened last year (stampede), they had some challenges. State government needs to give free tickets to legislators and KSCA has some other commitments for their members.

"Stadium capacity is also not that high. Very few tickets were available there for league games as well. Since IPL final attracts people from around the world, we need to have a larger inventory (of tickets) available for fans. We would have the ICC board meeting around that time too, a lot of members are coming for that."

Devajit Saikia

Arun Dhumal

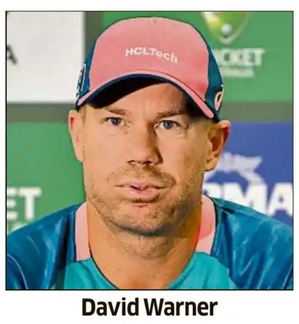
Ahmedabad will be hosting a fourth final in five years, and pointed out about the negative sentiment regarding the move, Dhumal said: "No, ideally the winning team gets the final but given the issues we touched upon, it becomes untenable to have it in Bengaluru. Let's say if CSK won last season we would surely do it in Chennai."

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia, speaking to the media in Guwahati, claimed that KSCA's request for extra 10,000 tickets, apart from the 15% tickets that the Board allots for host association, forced them to take the playoff and final away from Bengaluru.

"As per IPL protocol, we are required to provide only 15% of the total seating capacity as complimentary tickets to the host association. However, we received information from various sources indicating that during the hosting of IPL league matches, the Karnataka State Association was claiming a significantly higher number of complimentary tickets," Saikia told reporters.

"Consequently, we sent them an email requesting details regarding this matter. They stated that over and above the 15% complimentary ticket quota, they would require an additional, substantial allocation of tickets for their members, affiliated clubs and various others. Most surprisingly, they also requested tickets for their local MLAs and MLCs.

"Over and above the 15% allocation, they were demanding approximately 10,000 additional tickets. Consequently, we were compelled to make the difficult decision to relocate the matches from Bengaluru," he said.



David Warner

Warner to 'accept' drink-drive charge

SYDNEY, AFP: Australian cricket star David Warner will "accept responsibility" for drink-driving, his lawyer told reporters on Thursday after a Sydney court hearing.

The 39-year-old faces a "middle-range" drink-driving charge, court documents showed, after allegedly being more than twice the legal limit in Sydney in April.

Warner -- one of Australia's best-known sportsmen -- is accused of being at the wheel of a van and stopping short of a random testing site, before being breath-tested, arrested and taken to a police station.

"I can indicate that David will be accepting responsibility for drink-driving," defence lawyer Bobby Hill told reporters outside court, according to public broadcaster ABC.

"So many of us make those poor decisions. I think what's important is accepting and being accountable for those poor decisions," he said.

Warner's lawyer argued that the case showed the risk people take when trying to assess whether they have drunk too much.

"It doesn't matter if you're a tradesman, a doctor or one of the best opening batsmen in the world, that danger exists."

India's Vaidehee, Zeel march into quarterfinals

TUMAKARU, DHNS

Top seed Justina Mikulskyte survived a dramatic start against Poland's Zuzanna Kolonus before bouncing back strongly to register a 0-6, 6-3, 6-1 victory at the Tumakuru Open ITF W35 on Thursday.

The Lithuanian, one of the tournament favourites, recovered impressively after being bagelled in the opening set and now looks firmly back on track heading into the business end of the tournament.

Second seed Zuzanna Pawlikowska too continued her steady run with a straight-set win over India's Sonal Patil while third seed Vaidehee Chaudhari and fourth seed Zeel Desai ensured strong Indian representation in the last eight with commanding victories.

Vaidehee looked in complete control during her 6-2, 6-2 win over compatriot Madhurima Sawant, displaying aggressive baseline play and consistency throughout the contest.

Zeel, meanwhile, produced one of her cleanest performances of the week to outplay Jennifer Luikham 6-2, 6-3.

Trailing 0-2 in the opening set, the India Billie Jean King Cup team member quickly regained control with her aggressive baseline play and superior consistency, reeling off games in succession to turn the match around decisively.

Zeel Desai beat Jennifer Luikham 6-2, 6-3 to make it to the quarterfinals of the Tumakuru Open ITF W35 on Thursday.

Among the other notable results, Russia's Ksenia Laskutova overcame India's Sandeepti Singh Rao in a hard-fought encounter lasting over two hours, while sixth seed Ekaterina Yashina advanced after India's Kashish Bhatia retired with a right shoulder injury.

In doubles, Indian duo Sravya Shivani Chilakalapudi and Zeel Desai advanced to the semifinals with a straight-sets victory over the Indian combination of Laxmisiri Dandu and Chevika Reddy Sama.

The Indo-Japanese pair of Akanksha Dileep Nitture and Michika Ozeki fought back brilliantly after losing the first set to overcome India's Diva Bhatia and Jennifer Luikham in a tense match tiebreak.

Results (prefix denotes seeding): Women's singles, pre-quarterfinals: Ksenia Laskutova bt Sandeepti Singh Rao (Ind) 6-4, 6-2; 4-Zeel Desai (Ind) bt Jennifer Luikham (Ind) 6-2, 6-3; 6-Ekaterina Yashina bt Kashish Bhatia (Ind) 4-0 (retired); 3-Vaidehee Chaudhari (Ind) bt Madhurima Sawant (Ind) 6-2, 6-2; Arina Arifullina bt Pooja Ingale (Ind) 6-4, 6-2; 1-Justina Mikulskyte (Ltu) bt Zuzanna Kolonus (Pol) 0-6, 6-3, 6-1; 2-Zuzanna Pawlikowska (Pol) bt Sonal Patil (Ind) 6-2, 6-4; 5-Elina Nepliy bt Laxmisiri Dandu (Ind) 6-1, 6-1.

Doubles: Quarterfinals: 4-Sravya Shivani Chilakalapudi (Ind) / Zeel Desai (Ind) bt Laxmisiri Dandu (Ind) / Chevika Reddy Sama (Ind) 6-4, 6-3; 3-Akanksha Dileep Nitture (Ind) / Michika Ozeki (Jpn) Vs. Diva Bhatia (Ind) / Jennifer Luikham (Ind) 0-6, 7-5, 10-3; 1-Vaidehee Chaudhari (Ind) / Zuzanna Pawlikowska (Pol) bt Soha Sadiq (Ind) / Madhurima Sawant (Ind) 7-5, 6-1; Ksenia Laskutova / Elina Nepliy bt Aishwarya Jadhav (Ind) / Aakruti Narayan Sonkusare (Ind) 6-2, 6-2.

Metherell named as next MCC president

LONDON, PTI: The Hundred franchise London Spirit Chairman Julian Metherell will take over as the President of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) for a three-year tenure from October this year, succeeding former England batter Ed Smith.

Metherell has been a member of the MCC for the past 40 years and joined its Committee following approval from members at the 2025 AGM. He was nominated as the new president by Smith.

Founded in 1787, the MCC is the owner of the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground and the guardian of the laws that govern the game.

Metherell, the founder and Chief Financial Officer of energy company Genel Energy, had successfully led the MCC's negotiating team throughout England and Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) sales process to find an investment partner for a 49 per cent stake in the London Spirit franchise.

When the franchise transferred to its new owners in October last year, Metherell became Chair of London Spirit.

"I am deeply honoured to take on the role of MCC President, following in the footsteps of many of my cricketing idols. I have a long connection with MCC and I have many cherished memories at Lord's," said Metherell, who also followed a career in finance with Goldman Sach's.

Gukesh stays in hunt after Sindarov win, So draw

WARSAW (POLAND), PTI: D Gukesh made quite an impact, signalling that his preparations for the World Championship are on track by first defeating his title challenger, Javokhir Sindarov, in the fifth round and then holding American Grandmaster Wesley So to a draw in the Super Rapid and Blitz event on the Grand Chess Tour.

After defeating Uzbekistan's Sindarov, Gukesh played out a quick draw with Wesley So to move to six points with three rounds still to go in the Rapid event. The win against Sindarov earned the Indian two points, while the draw fetched him one.

So is the joint leader on nine points alongside fellow American Hans Niemann. The duo is followed by Vladimir Fedoseev, who is a point behind, while Gukesh is tied on six points with Fabiano Caruana, Jan-Krzysztof Duda and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave as he looks to climb further up the standings in the remaining rounds.

Gukesh was in full flow as he matched Sindarov move for move in what was the first clash between the two ahead of their World Championship meeting in December.

Interestingly, both Gukesh and Sindarov entered the fifth round after defeats in their previous games. The Indian had gone down to Radosław Wojtaszek, while Sindarov lost to Wesley So.

Playing with the black pieces, Gukesh opted for the Caro-Kann Defence, while Sindarov chose an unconventional setup. The opening soon led to a dynamic position, exactly the kind of game Gukesh likes.

D Gukesh

The Indian then won a pawn, though white had sufficient compensation. In his attempt to press for more, Sindarov launched an attack that completely backfired.

The Uzbek Grandmaster had earlier played down the significance of the clash ahead of the World Championship, but his play suggested he was under considerable pressure against Gukesh.

As things progressed, Gukesh gobbled up another piece that Sindarov sacrificed and once the queens got traded, the result was never in doubt. Gukesh wrapped up the first win against his future challenger in 52 moves.

The Grand Chess Tour was conceptualised by legendary former world champion Garry Kasparov.

Results: Round 6: Wesley So (USA, 9) drew with D Gukesh (Ind, 6); Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 4) lost to Hans Moke Niemann (USA, 9); Fabiano Caruana (USA, 6) drew with Duda Jan Krzysztof (Pol, 6); Vladimir Fedoseev (Slo, 8) beat Radoslav Wojtaszek (Pol, 3); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 6) beat Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, 4).

IPL: ACSU flags concerns over unauthorised people

NEW DELHI, PTI: The IPL's Anti Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU) has raised concerns over unauthorised people being present in team dugouts, buses, hotels and Players and Match Officials Area (PMOA) during the ongoing season, prompting the BCCI to tighten its standard operating procedures for franchises.

IPL chairman Arun Dhumal confirmed that the ACSU had submitted a report to the BCCI regarding the issue. Highlighting the anomalies flagged by the anti-corruption unit, Dhumal said the matter was being taken seriously by the board.

"The Anti Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU) has flagged off certain anomalies and submitted a report about unauthorised persons being seen in dugout, team bus and team hotel during IPL matches," Dhumal told PTI.

It is understood that ACSU officials have specifically taken note of certain younger players allegedly exploiting loopholes under the category of WAGS (wives and girlfriends).

A franchise source alleged that unidentified women had at times been allowed access to restricted team areas and travel arrangements.

BCCI officials are also believed to be unhappy with the growing presence of social media influencers around teams and hotels during the tournament.

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